

Hafa Adai!

Farrell is 80th Battle of Saipan's distinguished speaker. **PAGE 2**
DOL: We didn't get good responses from touchback survey. **PAGE 4**

\$1

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2022 Economic Census yields saddening results

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2022 Economic Census numbers officially released yesterday shows a downward shift in establishments and revenue when compared to the numbers in 2017.

See **CENSUS** on Page 4



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

From left, CNMI Department of Commerce Central Statistics Division director Justin Andrew, Economic Census assistant survey director Michael Sprung, acting Commerce secretary Remedio C. Mafnas, and Economic Census assistant survey director staff chief Bobby Nusz after their presentation yesterday at the Department of Commerce.

Correcting the record

BY GOV. ARNOLD I. PALACIOS

Special to the Saipan Tribune



I wish to correct some of the inaccurate and misleading statements made in the press this week.

First, let me be clear that my administration welcomes all visitors to the CNMI, including visitors from

See **RECORD** on Page 4

Over \$1M in ARPA funds paid to dissolved nonprofits

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster-Related Funding held a special committee meeting yesterday to discuss the need for subpoenas against nonprofit heads who (collectively) received over \$1 million in American Res-

» **House Special Committee may subpoena nonprofit heads**

cue Plan Act funds.

During yesterday's special committee meeting, committee vice chair House floor leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), the vice chair of the House Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster-Related Funding, discusses the need for subpoenas against nonprofit heads who received extraordinary amounts from ARPA.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Gov. Alexander Narruhn (Chuuk State, Federated States of Micronesia); Gov. Arnold I. Palacios (CNMI); President Wesley Simina (FSM); President Hilda Heine (Republic of the Marshall Islands); Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero (Guam); Vice President Uduch Sengebau Senior (Republic of Palau); Special Presidential Envoy Maverick Eoe (Republic of Nauru); Gov. Stevenson Joseph (Pohnpei State, FSM); Lt. Gov. Francis Itemai (Yap State, FSM); and Gov. Tulensa Palik (Kosrae State, FSM).

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"We must keep our cultures

strong, our values as people of Micronesia, and our friendships with each other"

These were the words of

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios during his remarks at the 26th Micronesia Islands Forum in Guam last June 2.

Last week, Palacios, met with regional leaders from Guam, the Federated States

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INSIDE



SUPPLEMENT

This year, Saipan Tribune decided to shine a spotlight on some of the wonderful fathers in our island community and invited them to participate in a special Q&A session.

PAGE 10



BUSINESS

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce proudly held its first ribbon cutting ceremony to welcome two new and returning members, Younis Arts Studios, Inc. and Tupu Cane Juice, into the Chamber membership.

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LIFE & STYLE

After organizers for Nathan's Famous Fourth of July hot dog-eating contest said Joey Chestnut wouldn't compete this year because of a deal with a rival brand, Netflix swiftly announced a new hot dog-eating competition that will feature Chestnut and his "fiercest rival."

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Local

Farrell is 80th Battle of Saipan's distinguished speaker

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Local historian and renowned author Don A. Farrell will be the distinguished speaker for the 80th Battle of Saipan Anniversary tomorrow, June 15, at the American Memorial Park.

"I am very honored to be among such distinguished guests to speak on June 15 at American Memorial Park. I have spent the better part of my life studying the history of the Mariana Islands. I am only pleased to have the opportunity to share a few thoughts on

why we have enjoyed 80 years of peace since the war," Farrell told *Saipan Tribune*.

Farrell was born in 1947 to a World War II vet and raised in the Great Northwest. He graduated high school in Salt Lake City, served a six-year tour in the U.S. Air Force, then earned a B.A. in Biological Science from California State College at Fullerton in 1973 and a degree in Secondary Education from California State College at San Bernardino in 1978.

Farrell's writing career began in Guam with the 1981 publication of *The*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

File photo shows historian Don A. Farrell delivering his speech on efforts to place a memorial plaque to honor the men from the 8th Marine Regiment and the 18th Naval Construction Battalion.

Americanization of Guam: 1898-1918, followed by *The Sacrifice of Guam: 1919-1943* and *Liberation—1944*. Farrell moved to Tinian in 1987, authoring the first *History of the Northern Mariana Islands* in 1991, followed by *History of the Mariana Islands to Partition*. *Modern History of the Northern Mariana Islands* is in publication. He has also written numerous magazine

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IPI faces legal hurdles in dispute with CCC

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, currently embroiled in a complex legal battle against the CNMI and several officials, has a significant hearing scheduled for July 25, 2024, with a motion to dismiss the whole case entirely.

The dispute centers around enforcement actions taken by the Commonwealth Casino Commission and the imposition of hefty penalties and license suspensions on IPI.

On June 11, 2024, the CCC, along with board chair Edward C. Deleon Guerrero, vice chair Rafael S. Demapan, and board member Mariano Taitano, filed a memorandum supporting their motion to dismiss IPI's First Amended Complaint under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1). The 20-page motion asserts that

the court lacks subject-matter jurisdiction, as established by the precedent set in *District of Columbia Court of Appeals v. Feldman* (1983), and argues that IPI has failed to present a legitimate "case or controversy" under Article III of the U.S. Constitution.

IPI is facing a series of enforcement actions from the CCC since 2020, with accusations against the company of various breaches of the Casino License Agreement, including failing to pay the Community Benefit Fund contributions, the annual license fee, and maintaining requisite cash reserves. The CCC's enforcement actions culminated in the suspension of IPI's casino gaming license and imposition of penalties totaling \$5 million on April 22, 2021.

IPI challenged this order in the CNMI Superior Court, claiming it was arbitrary and violated due process. The Su-

perior Court upheld CCC's decision, prompting IPI to appeal to the CNMI Supreme Court. While the Supreme Court partly affirmed and partly reversed the lower court's decision, it remanded the case for further proceedings, leaving IPI's license suspension and penalties in a state of flux.

On May 9, 2024, IPI filed its First Amended Complaint, alleging five causes of action:

■ Violation of the contracts clauses: IPI argues that the annual regulatory fee statute and Commission Order

2021-002 impose new liabilities and limitations that impair the CLA, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, without considering the force majeure clause.

■ Violation of the takings clause (42 U.S.C. § 1983): IPI contends that the fees constitute an unlawful taking of its property rights (casino license) without just compensation.

■ Violation of the due process clauses (42 U.S.C. § 1983): IPI asserts that the fee statute and Commission Order 2021-002 deprived it of due

process, as the fees exceed actual regulatory costs and were imposed arbitrarily.

■ Breach of the CLA: IPI alleges that the enactment and implementation of the fee statute, along with demands for immediate payment, breach the CLA, especially considering the force majeure clause during COVID-19.

■ Prayer for relief: IPI seeks injunctive relief to halt enforcement of the fee statute, monetary restitution for fees paid, and declarations that the fee statute is unconstitutional as applied.

CCC further argued that the case should be dismissed for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction, as federal courts cannot review final state court decisions under Feldman. They also assert that IPI's claims do not constitute a valid "case or controversy" because IPI has not demonstrated concrete, imminent harm traceable to the defendants' actions.

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FARRELL

From page 2

and newspaper articles on the history of the Mariana Islands. Farrell credits his understanding of Marianas history to 35 years of government service, including chief of staff to the speaker of the Guam Legislature, and chief of staff to the mayor of the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan. He was elected to the CNMI State Board of Education and served as its chair for two years.

Farrell is married to Carmen Muna Dela Cruz of Tinian. They have three children, eight grandchildren and one great grandson.

Meanwhile, the 80th Battle of Saipan Anniversary Organizing Committee released the program for the 80th Battle of Saipan Anniversary and it will start at 8am with the reenactment of the invasion at Green Beach 2 at the Civic Center beach next to the da'ok tree. It will be followed by the wreath presentation at Veterans Memorial (Civic Center), at 8:30am. The motorcade to the American Memorial Park will be at 8:45am. The motorcade will stop at the fire station in

Garapan to walk to American Memorial Park by 9:10am. Around 9:20am will be the assembly for the parade.

The highlight of the program at the American Memorial Park's ceremony of honor begins at 10am. In the program, there will be posting of colors by Department of Public Safety, an invocation from Fr. Jesse Reyes, singing of the U.S. and CNMI national anthems by the Marianas Trench Band. Welcoming remarks will be addressed by Barbara Alberti, superintendent, National Parks Service, and the special remarks will be provided by Keone Nakoa, deputy assistant secretary of Insular and International Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior. The honorary speaker will be Mark Hashimoto, a retired major general and also executive director of Marine Forces Pacific. The keynote speaker is the commanding general of 4th Marine Division, Brigadier General John Jerrard.

The program will also have Consul Ryioji Takagaki of the Consular Office of Japan on Saipan delivering the distinguished remarks. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios will serve as the honored speaker.

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DOL: We didn't get good responses from touchback survey

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor says that its attempt to gauge the

impact of the CW-1 touchback provision through a survey launched last year was unsuccessful as the department didn't get very good feedback

from the business community. During a hearing before the House Standing Committee on Ways and Means, Labor Secretary Leila Staffler up-

dated lawmaker on the survey it lunched last year geared toward getting a clear picture of the impact of the touchback provision which was imple-

mented last year.

According to Staffler, DOL didn't get enough feedback to get a clear picture of the impact.

"[The survey] was focused on touchback. We didn't get very good responses from the entire business community. But we have since moved forward with looking at our website to collect that data," she said.

Staffler said the survey was the first test in getting this data but has moved forward with other strategies and says it will be providing an update soon.

Back in June 2023, to gain a clear perspective on what the actual impact of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' "touchback" provision would be for the CNMI as a whole, the CNMI Department of Labor launched a CW-1 survey.

The survey was essentially meant to measure the impact of the implementation of the "touchback" provision by having local businesses provide the number of CW-1 employees they had that would be required to leave the CNMI this year in compliance with said provision.

According to a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*, touchback refers to the requirement for foreign workers to leave the CNMI before their work visas could be renewed for a third consecutive time. That departure requirement also means they will have to stay away until a new permit is approved, which could take months.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

RECORD

From page 1

mainland China. I have never said that I "object" to Chinese tourists, or lawfully admitted tourists from any other country. The *Marianas Variety's* headline suggesting otherwise was wrong.

I have, however, expressed concern on multiple occasions about the instability of the mainland Chinese tourism market, especially in light of geopolitical tensions in our region and economic conditions in China. That much is true.

Let me also be clear that there is a big difference between the legitimate tourists from mainland China who want to enjoy our beautiful islands, and the Chinese Communist Party that controls the government and citizens of the People's Republic of China.

It is the CCP that presents an increasing threat to national security and peace in our region. Political and economic coercion by the CCP and its proxies is all over the news. It was a hot topic at the recent

Micronesia Islands Forum held in Guam last week.

Yes, it is true as some have pointed out, that there have been important overtures at dialogue and cooperation between the United States and the People's Republic of China, and even efforts to increase tourism from mainland China to the U.S.

But the critical difference that is conveniently ignored by some is that PRC tourists traveling anywhere in the U.S. except the CNMI must first obtain B1/B2 visas. They have to be vetted.

The CNMI remains the only place in the nation where PRC nationals may enter without a visa or any prior screening. There are significant security threats and other problems associated with that lack of vetting. We have seen overstayers, people sneaking into Guam, and criminal elements entering the CNMI.

This lack of vetting is why members of Congress have called on the Biden administration to end parole authority for PRC tourists to the CNMI.

Tourist parole authority

may be revoked at any time. As tensions heighten in the region, revocation becomes more likely. This is one of many reasons why I say we must diversify our tourism industry and focus our resources on other, more stable markets and on enhancing our destination.

I am hopeful, as many are, that the proposed Economic Vitality and Security Travel Authorization Program (EVS-TAP) will provide the level of screening that will be sufficient to secure our borders while still allowing visitors from mainland China to enter. But until EVS-TAP is implemented, and as long as geopolitical tensions remain so high, it makes little sense for us to spend our limited resources pursuing unlimited flights from mainland China.

One thing that has been reported is true: I did decline to sign a letter that Ms. Kim King-Hinds drafted for me when she was still the chair of the Commonwealth Ports Authority board.

That letter pleaded with the Department of Transportation to give CPA a \$30-mil-

lion subsidy.

Federal departments don't just hand out millions of taxpayer dollars for nothing. It probably didn't help Ms. King-Hinds' case to ask for more federal money when CPA had quickly blown through its American Rescue Plan Act funds and had little to show for it.

Still, I did go to the trouble of inquiring through back channels if Ms. King-Hinds' request was even possible. The answer: No.

So, I chose instead to appoint new members to the CPA board who would take the lead in rolling back the outrageous fees that the King-Hinds board had imposed on our struggling airlines.

I support the new board's proposal to lower the airport fees and use CPA's reserve funds to pay off the bond that was used to justify the fee hikes in the first place. The bondholders have responded positively to the idea. Frankly, this should have been done long ago.

Thank you for the opportunity to correct the record.

OVER

From page 1

(D-Saipan) brought up a request for subpoenas duces tecum/testificandum against the heads and employees of nonprofit organizations Second Wind, Women of Destiny, COVID Care Force Micronesia, and One Marianas Initiative.

Collectively, these nonprofits received \$1.1 million from ARPA (mostly through the Building Optimism, Opportunities, and Stability Program, or BOOST Program) with no return of investments to show for it. In addition, some of the nonprofits have since been dissolved.

Specifically, Second Wind and Women of Destiny (both represented by Grace Sablan Vaiagae) collectively received \$700,000 in ARPA funds (both BOOST and non-BOOST related) and have since been dissolved as of this year.

Meanwhile, both COVID Care Force Micronesia and One Marianas Initiative received \$250,000 through BOOST with allegedly nothing to show of it.

COVID Care Force Micronesia is represented by Kevin C. Guerrero and James Michael Petite while One Marianas Initiative is represented by James Michael Petite and Ivan Mereb.

"We are looking at extraordinary amounts paid to these non-profits. My concern is... how was the money actually spent? I have looked at a journal of payments made out [by these non-profits] and I think this is something that we really need to look at. How were these non-profits operated, what did they spend the money on, and I would like to recommend that this body consider subpoenas for these non-profits and its directors and for those who worked for these nonprofits," he said.

In addition, Propst asked that these nonprofits' bank records be subpoenaed too.

"I firmly believe once we get the subpoenas out, we will be in a much better position to discuss what happened. Again, these are supposed to be nonprofits organizations and there's also the concern of what they intended to do, and what the actual delivery of services was," he said.

Another concern Propst raised was that these nonprofits failed to pay some of their bills before dissolution.

"It has come to our attention that while some of these nonprofits have been dissolved, there are challenges for legitimate businesses where rent is still owed and other billings. I am deeply concerned that these payments were not settled before they dissolved and that makes it very difficult for legitimate businesses to try and collect now that they've been dissolved. All the more reason why we should try and understand what [was produced] from this substantial amount of money and why these individuals were paid so much. Again, I'm sorry to have to bring up the past but the biggest complaints we've had time and time again is that many of the awardees who just started up business, not existing struggling businesses, were awarded big chunk of change and we are not seeing what the return of investment is on that. Originally, COVID funds under ARPA were supposed to be helping out those who need help, including businesses. There is an urgent need to get this information to us," he said.

In addition, Propst asked that Department of Finance Secretary Tracy Norita be contacted for up-to-date documents on these nonprofits.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

STRONG

From page 1

of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Nauru at the 26th Micronesia Islands Forum.

In his opening remarks, Palacios highlighted the importance of implementing regional initiatives and leveraging technology to build stronger links across the region.

Palacios also encouraged

everyone to keep their cultures strong, values, and friendships with each other, and to work together to find solutions and navigate the path to a greener, more resilient future for all of Micronesia.

The Micronesia Islands Forum was established in 1994.

It comprises of island nations and territories in Micronesia including the CNMI, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands.

The Micronesia Islands Forum's main goal is to en-

courage cooperation and collaboration on common issues such as sustainable development, climate change, ocean conservation, economic development, cultural preservation, and regional security.

It also provides a platform for members to interact with other regional and international organizations.

The forum also encourages cooperation and collaboration on health, environment, and other important issues the Micronesia region faces.

The forum's theme this

year is "Writing Our History, Shaping Our Future."

Palacios' trip to Guam came less than a week since his return from his last trip from Japan where he, along with the Marianas Visitors Authority, hosted the Marianas Seminar.

MVA organized the seminar in Tokyo to provide details about Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, with the goal of generating new Marianas products and new media coverage to attract more Japanese travelers to the destination.

CENSUS

From page 1

Yesterday, Economic Census Assistant Survey director staff chief Bobby Nusz and Economic Census assistant survey director Michael Sprung officially presented the 2022 Economic Census report to the media.

Although not a complete shock due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2022 Census report yielded saddening results as it showed a massive decrease in revenue, number of establishments in the CNMI, and more when compared to data from 2017.

"We've seen a decline in our four basic data items for the CNMI since 2017; estab-

lishments, sales, payroll, and employment. Compared to 2017, each one has decreased by double digits," said Nusz.

The largest decrease seen, according to the 2022 Census report, was in revenue which went down a whopping 51%.

"Particularly revenue (or sales) when you add up all the sectors of the economy, it was \$1.7 million which is a 51% decrease from 2017 at \$3.6 million," he said.

As number of establishments, when compared to 2017, there was 12.6% decrease with 1,523 establish-

ments in 2022 and 1,742 back in 2017.

As for employment, employment went down 36% from 2017 with 14,488 employed in 2022 and 22,652 employed in 2017.

Nusz said this downward trend could be attributed to the downfall of the casino industry in the CNMI.

"We've seen a big change in Sector 71, which includes the gambling industry, which is driving these decreases we think. We are also seeing lingering impacts of the pandemic on tourism, particularly in the hotel

and retail sectors," he said.

Sprung shared that based on the Census data from Guam, Guam is experiencing similar issues in the tourism industry, but because of the military activity on Guam, the impact isn't seen as much in Guam as in the CNMI.

In related news, for 2022, Nusz said they saw an increase in electronic reporting by businesses.

"So, for businesses with only one physical location, we allow them report on either paper or electronic, in 2017 41% of these business reported electronically while the rest used paper. For 2022, 93.1% chose to report electronically. We are thinking we might no longer need to use the paper questionnaires," he said.

» Revenue down 51%
» Nearly 13% decrease in biz establishments
» Employment down 36%

Treating kidney stones locally at CHCC



CHCC

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. staff poses around their new state-of-the-art lithotripsy machine.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is delighted to announce the arrival of a state-of-the-art lithotripsy machine, significantly expanding its urologic services and enhancing the quality of healthcare services for the CNMI community. This cutting-edge equipment will be instrumental in the treatment of kidney stones, offering a non-invasive and highly effective solution to a common and often painful medical condition.

"We are incredibly excited to introduce lithotripsy to our community," said Dr. Brian Citro, surgeon at CHCC. "This technology allows us to effectively fragment kidney stones using soundwaves, eliminating the need for traditional surgery. This translates to shorter hospital stays, faster recovery times, and less pain for our patients."

Kidney stones are a common medical condition, affecting millions of Americans each year. Previously, CHCC patients requiring treatment for kidney stones often faced the prospect of traveling outside of the CNMI for care. The arrival of the lithotripsy machine at CHCC eliminates this need, providing patients with convenient access to advanced treatment right here at home.

The acquisition of the lithotripsy machine is part of a broader strategy to modernize CHCC's medical infrastructure and ensure that the residents of the CNMI have access to the latest healthcare innovations. By providing advanced medical treatments locally, CHCC aims to enhance patient satisfaction, improve health outcomes, and reduce the financial burden on patients who previously had to seek treatment off-island.

"This lithotripsy machine is transformative for our healthcare services," said Esther Muña, CEO of CHCC. "We are committed to investing in advanced medical technologies to provide our commu-



CHCC

The lithotripsy machine allows the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to effectively fragment kidney stones using soundwaves, eliminating the need for traditional surgery.

nity with the best healthcare possible."

CHCC remains dedicated to its mission of delivering exceptional healthcare services and promoting the health and wellbeing of the community. The introduction of the new lithotripsy machine marks a significant milestone in this

journey, paving the way further for advancements and improvements in the future.

This acquisition was made possible by the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, from Capital Improvement Project funds through the CNMI Office of the Governor. (PR)



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1178 Hinemlu' St., Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is now accepting Vendor Applications for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

All interested vendors may pick up an application packet at the CNMI WIC Program Administration Office located on Upper Navy Hill, 11546 Isla Drive. The application acceptance period is from May 1, 2024 through June 14, 2024, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or vendors may request for an application through email at fabian.ulloa@chcc.health.

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program Administration Office no later than 4:00 pm, June 14, 2024.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information packet provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to Fabian M. Ulloa, WIC Program Coordinator, at (670) 664-4067 or (670) 285-4073 or by email at fabian.ulloa@chcc.health.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-24-024

OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR CUC ROTA's ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS & OPERATIONS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the lease of a suitable office and operations support facility for the Headquarters of CUC's Administration and Operations on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA), DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The RFP package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration with CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP package will be emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. For registration inquiries, please email Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician via email address, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-24-024, Office Space Lease for CUC Rota's Administrative Functions and Operations." to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 12, 2024**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time.

Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This proposal and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 21, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alvin King, CUC Rota Resident Manager at email address alvin.king@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal, in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

JOHN C. MAFNAS
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

GIVE YOUR FAMILY A HEALTHY START

How can WIC help my family?

- Nutrition counseling
- Breastfeeding support
- Healthy foods
- Referrals

Who is eligible?

- Pregnant/Breastfeeding/Postpartum women (up to 1 year)
- Infants
- Children under the age of five (5)
- Meet nutritional risk and financial guidelines. (See table below)

A pregnant woman is considered two (2) family members!

WIC Income Eligibility Table by Family Size (Effective May 1, 2024)

Family members in household	Yearly household income	Monthly household income	Twice-Monthly household income	Bi-Weekly household income	Weekly household income
1	\$27,861	\$2,322	\$1,161	\$1,072	\$536
2	37,814	3,152	1,576	1,455	728
3	47,767	3,981	1,991	1,838	919
4	57,720	4,810	2,405	2,220	1,110
5	67,673	5,640	2,820	2,603	1,302
6	77,626	6,469	3,235	2,986	1,493
7	87,579	7,299	3,650	3,369	1,685
8	97,532	8,128	4,064	3,752	1,876
Each additional member add	+\$9,953	+\$830	+\$415	+\$383	+\$192

Note: All WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines are based on GROSS income, meaning before taxes or other deductions. A person or certain family members who participate in other benefit programs, such as the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) or Medicaid, automatically meet the income requirement.

Call us at (670) 664-4084 or (670) 236-8741 to make an appointment!

www.chcc.health This AD is funded by USDA 202424W100347 This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

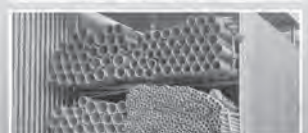


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BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



NMC to host free info session on June 20

Community members interested in pursuing higher education are invited to attend Northern Marianas College's free information session regarding the upcoming Fall 2024 semester on Thursday, June 20, 2024.

The info session will be held at the Sunflower Room at Saipan World Resort, with doors opening at 5:30pm for registration. The session will cover topics that include financial aid options and the admissions process.

Participants of the info session will qualify to have their application and placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming Fall 2024 semester, a savings of about \$75.

Incoming students who have attended a Start Smart

Seminar, Cash for College, or Climb Higher Seminar in the past year can avail of having their application and placement test fees waived for the Fall 2024 semester.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a Bachelor of Science in Education (Concentration in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Rehabilitation and Human Services, or Special Education), Bachelor of Science in Business Management (Concentration in

Accounting or without Concentration); Associate of Arts in Business, Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration (Emphasis in Accounting, Business Management, or Computer Applications), Associate of Applied Science in Hospitality Management, Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts (Emphasis in Education, Health and Physical Education, Pre-Engineering, Social Work, or without Emphasis), Associate of Science in Nursing, Associate of Science in Agriculture, Associate of Science in Natural Resource Management, Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice, and Associate of Science in Fire Science Technology. The certificate programs at NMC include Basic Law Enforcement, Business Management, Computer Applications, Early Childhood Education, Fire Science Technology, Hospitality Operations, Nursing Assistant, and Small Business Management.

NMC's Fall 2024 semester will begin on Aug. 19, 2024. A list of the classes that are offered can be found at www.marianas.edu. For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at (670) 237-6769/70/71/72 or email oar@marianas.edu. (PR)

CNMI GOP announces deadline for letters of intent

The CNMI Republican Party announces that the deadline for submission, of letters of intent to run in the upcoming general elections is on June 30, 2024.

Individuals interested in running for office in the CNMI House of Representatives or Senate must submit their letters of intent to the following:
■ CNMI Republican Party

officials: Diego T. Benavente at (670) 285-5848 or email dtbpeskadot@gmail.com;

■ Candace Celis at (670) 484-1206 or email cqcelis670@gmail.com. (PR)



NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION
AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE
P.O. BOX 506689, SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: 670.234.3878

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence's mission is to promote, nourish, and sustain a collective movement to end violence in the CNMI. All applicants must be familiar with and agree with NMCADSV's mission to eliminate domestic and sexual violence.

Position Description

Position Title: Program Assistant
Salary Range: \$10.00/hr to \$14.00/hr

Job Summary

The Program Assistant will work with the Executive Director of NMCADSV and its Board to achieve its mission, goals, and objectives. The Program Assistant will support the daily operations of NMCADSV, including support for NMCADSV staff, the Executive Director and/or NMCADSV Board/Members, as assigned.

Duties

- Confers with and reports to the Executive Director
- Assists with the coordination of all NMCADSV activities; including event planning, logistics for NMCADSV and Board meetings, preparation of materials, and travel logistics
- Provides administrative and clerical support to the Executive Director and the NMCADSV Board of Directors and Members; including receiving calls, receiving and logging mail, and maintaining records, as assigned
- Maintains and manages the NMCADSV membership database
- Assists with finance and operations of the NMCADSV; including daily bookkeeping, vendor relations and record keeping
- Attends all meetings and conference calls, as requested
- Travels to national and inter-island meetings and conferences, as required by the Executive Director
- Oversees the maintenance of office equipment and manages office inventory
- Assists the Executive Director in grants management, including the preparation of application packets and gathering data for reports
- Performs other duties, as assigned

Minimum Qualifications

- High School Diploma, or equivalent
- An agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence
- Experience in providing clerical and administrative support, including record keeping
- Demonstrated abilities in verbal and written communication
- Proficiency in MS Word and Excel
- Willingness to learn in all areas of NMCADSV operations
- Flexible Schedule
- Must be able to travel

Highly Desired Qualifications

- 1 year of documented experience/work with non-profit organizations or volunteerism
- Own transportation, with documented insurance, registration, and a valid driver's license

To Apply:

A **Resume and Cover Letter** should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, June 28, 2024**. Provide a list (not copies) of any certifications and/or awards. Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Submit **resume and cover letter** to management@endviolencenmi.org, deliver to NMCADSV's office (between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.) at the Marina Heights I Building (2nd Floor, Suite 206) or mail to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) Applicants who are invited for an interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma or equivalent, Police Clearance (within the last 30 days), valid Passport, and a list of references.

NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer.
Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice and Grant # G-2301MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



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The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence's mission is to promote, nourish, and sustain a collective movement to end violence in the CNMI. All applicants must be familiar with and agree with NMCADSV's mission to eliminate domestic and sexual violence.

Position Description

Position Title: Program Coordinator
Salary Range: \$14.00/hr. to \$18.25/hr.
Classification: Full Time, Non-Exempt. Full Benefits, including paid leave and health insurance.

Job Summary

The Program Coordinator will work with the Executive Director of NMCADSV, Associate Director, and other NMCADSV staff to achieve its mission, goals, and objectives. The Program Coordinator will report to NMCADSV's Associate Director, assist with the daily operations of NMCADSV, and provide support for NMCADSV's programmatic activities. The Program Coordinator will plan and execute activities in relation to NMCADSV's mission and goals, with particular attention to specific activities outlined in corresponding grant applications.

Duties

- Confers with and reports to the Associate Director
- Assists with the coordination of all NMCADSV activities, including training and program development.
- Assists with development of presentation and training materials.
- Conducts presentations and assists with training events.
- Develops and executes community outreach and education activities.
- Assists with program evaluation.
- Maintains relationships and works collaboratively with a variety of organizations.
- Builds and maintains partnerships with community organizations and government agencies.
- Works with community organizations and government agencies to identify and address training needs.
- Attends all meetings (virtual or in-person) as assigned.
- Travels to national and inter-island meetings and conferences, as required or requested.
- Assists in grants management, including the preparation of application packets, gathering data for reports, and preparing reports.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications

- An agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence
- High School Diploma or Equivalent
- Experience with community organizing and/or outreach
- Experience planning and executing events
- Demonstrated proficiency in written and oral communication
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Applications and Google Applications
- Ability to manage multiple tasks and deadlines
- Ability to work some nights and weekends
- Experience with assessments and analysis
- Must be able to travel within the CNMI and US Mainland

Highly Desired Qualifications

- Experience working in social justice or working directly with survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.
- Knowledge of dynamics of sexual violence and/or domestic violence.
- Knowledge of and commitment to culturally relevant, empowerment, and strength-based strategies for eliminating sexual violence and/or domestic violence.
- 1 year or more of documented experience/work with non-profit organizations or volunteerism
- Own transportation, with documented insurance, registration, and a valid driver's license

To Apply:

A **Resume and Cover Letter** should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, June 28, 2024**. Provide a list (not copies) of any certifications and/or awards. Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Submit **resume and cover letter** to management@endviolencenmi.org, deliver to NMCADSV's office (between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.) at the Marina Heights I Building (2nd Floor, Suite 206) or mail to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) Applicants who are invited for an interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma or equivalent, Police Clearance (within the last 30 days), valid Passport, and a list of references.

NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer.
Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

This project is supported by funds awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, US Department of Justice and Grant No. 2301MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/proposal/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the US Department of Justice or the US Department of Health and Human Services.

NAVFAC Pacific awards \$98M contract for work in Pacific

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM—Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Pacific awarded a \$98-million cost-plus-fixed-fee indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity modification contract to AE-COM Technical Services Inc., of Los Angeles, California on June 3 for environmental services primarily within the Pacific area of operation.

The modification provides for an increase in contract capacity to support additional requirements of the Navy, primarily in the Environmental Restoration Navy program, as well as for Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill projects.

Work on this contract will be performed in Hawaii, Guam, other areas of the NAVFAC Pacific AOR including Northwest and Southwest regions of the U.S., Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic regions of the U.S., and other areas in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Order on the work is expected to be completed by January 2028. (PR)



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 • Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315 • www.dcrm.gov.mp



NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of June 14, 2024

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS	APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Triple J Saipan, Inc.	04/19/2024 TMS-2022-035-A2	Construction of One (1) Additional Barracks	Marpo Heights, Tinian	Major Siting	Approved 6/6/2024	28. J&Y Corporation	5/30/2024 SLR-2023-095-R2	Commercial Snorkeling Tours	All Designated Swim Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 6/7/2024
2. Hawaiian Rock Products Corporation dba Hawaiian Rock Products	5/10/2024 TMS-2024-045	Hawaiian Rock Products Quarry Expansion	Marpo Valley, Tinian	Major Siting	Public Hearing* 7/2/2024	29. Akhil Chandra Mollick dba Ichiban Marine Sports	5/29/2024 SLR-2023-066-R2	Commercial Parasailing & Water-Jet Crafts Activities	All Designated Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/6/2024
3. Marianas Seas Adventure, Inc. dba Masa Dive Saipan	5/17/2024 SLR-2023-050-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour & Instructions	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/30/2024	30. Big Eye, LLC.	5/28/2024 SLR-2023-063-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operations & Instructions	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 6/7/2024
4. GPPC, Inc.	5/20/2024 SLRm-2024-047	Staging & Stockpiling	Tanapag, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 6/4/2024	31. Aqua Gate, Inc.	5/29/2024 SLR-2024-010-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operations & Instructions	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 6/7/2024
5. H J 2 Corporation dba Marine World	5/17/2024 SLR-2024-018-R2	Commercial Banana Boat & Jet Skis Operations	Susupe, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 6/7/2024	32. CNS, Inc.	5/30/2024 SLR-2023-098-R2	Commercial Snorkeling Activities	All Designated Swim Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 6/10/2024
6. H J 2 Corporation dba Marine World	5/17/2024 SLR-2024-027-R2	Commercial Snorkeling Activities	Susupe, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/31/2024	33. La Mer, LLC. dba Aqua Del Rey	5/29/2024 SLR-2024-053	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operations	LaoLao, Obyan, Grotto, Ice Cream Point, Dimple Point, Naftan Point, Shipwreck & B-29, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 6/12/2024
7. Mariana Global, Inc.	5/17/2024 SLR-2024-009-R2	Commercial Kayaking, Stand-Up Paddleboard, Snorkeling & Surfboarding	Managaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 6/7/2024	34. BSEA, Inc. dba BSEA Sunsports	5/31/2024 SLR-2024-054	Commercial Banan Boat, Snorkeling & Parasailing Operations	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete* 6/4/2024
8. Noriko Akari Baidya dba Sakura Saipan	5/20/2024 SLR-2023-065-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operation & Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 6/7/2024	35. JB Corporation dba Saipan Fresh Adventure	5/31/2024 SLR-2023-067-R2	Commercial Snorkeling Tours	All Designated Swim Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 6/7/2024
9. Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM)	5/22/2024 SSm-2024-048	2024 CNMI Ocean Month Sand Sculpting Competition	Chalan Kanoa, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 6/4/2024	36. Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc. dba Big Boy's II Marine	5/30/2024 SLR-2023-043-R2	Commercial Water-Jet Craft, Helmet Diving, & Kayaking Operations	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/5/2024
10. Aquatic Marine Co., Inc. dba Aquatic Marine Sports	5/22/2024 SLR-2023-048-R2	Commercial Parasailing, Water-Jet Crafts, Banana Boat, & Snorkeling Operations	Managaha, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Vessel Inspection 6/13/2024	37. Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc. dba Big Boy's II Marine	5/30/2024 SLR-2023-044-R2	Commercial Parasailing Operations	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
11. A.K.T., LLC.	5/23/2024 SLR-2024-049	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operation	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 6/12/2024	38. Office of the Mayor, Municipality of Saipan	6/4/2024 SSm-2024-055	CNMI Annual July 4th Liberation Day Festivities	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 6/7/2024
12. Le Grand Bleu Inc.	5/22/2024 SLR-2023-025-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Instructions & Tour Operations	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 6/7/2024	39. Asia Pacific, Inc. dba Asia Marine Sports	5/30/2024 SLR-2023-053-R2	Commercial Parasailing, Water-Jet Craft, Banana Boat, & Snorkeling Operations	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/6/2024
13. B&J Corporation dba Dive Y2K	5/22/2024 SLR-2023-073-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operation & Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 6/7/2024	40. Island Marine Sports, Inc. dba Island Marine Sports	5/30/2024 SLR-2023-055-R2	Commercial Parasailing Operations	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete with Condition 6/5/2024
14. Sakura CNMI Corp., dba Sakura Marine Sports	5/24/2024 SLR-2023-037-R2	Commercial Banana Boat, Snorkeling & Kayaking Operations	All Designated Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 6/7/2024	41. Aquaville, Inc. dba Aqua Water Sports	5/30/2024 SLR-2023-060-R2	Commercial Banana Boat, Parasailing & Seawalker Operations	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete with Conditions 6/6/2024
15. Sakura CNMI Corp dba Sakura Marine Sports	5/24/2024 SLR-2023-038-R2	Commercial Water-Jet Crafts & Wakeboarding Operations	Fishing Base & Managaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 6/7/2024	42. Mark Arnold L. Santos dba Macs Marine	5/30/2024 SLR-2023-062-R2	Commercial Banana Boat, Parasailing, & Seawalker Operations	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Vessel Inspection 6/13/2024
16. Fengyi Zhang Williams dba Big Shark Marine Sports	5/28/2024 SLR-2023-032-R2	Commercial Banana Boat, Water-Jet Craft, Kayaking & Snorkeling Operations	Kanoa/World Resort, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 6/7/2024	43. Auto Marine, Inc.	5/30/2024 SLR-2023-061-R2-A1	Commercial Banana Boat, Parasailing, Snorkeling, & Seawalker Operations	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Vessel Inspection 6/13/2024
17. Department of Public Lands (DPL)	5/28/2024 SS-2024-050	Micro-Hyatt Remediation Project	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved 6/7/2024	44. Kyung Yi Lee	5/30/2024 SS-2024-056	Construction of additional concrete retaining wall for erosion/stormwater runoff	LauLau, Saipan	Shoreline	Certified Complete* 6/10/2024
18. H2M Saipan Corporation dba H2M Saipan Dive Center	5/28/2024 SLR-2023-070-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Instructions & Tour Operations	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 6/7/2024	45. Saipan Crewboats, Inc.	6/6/2024 SPIm-2024-057	DryDock	Lowerbase, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 6/12/2024
19. Seahorse, Inc. dba Seahorse Tour	5/28/2024 SLR-2023-035-R2	Commercial Parasailing, Water-Jet Crafts, Banana Boat Operations	Managaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete with Condition 6/4/2024	46. Mariana Global, Inc.	6/5/2024 SLR-2024-058	Floating Deck	Managaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review*
20. Seahorse, Inc. dba Seahorse Tour	5/28/2024 SLR-2024-051	Commercial Snorkeling Activities	All Designated Swim Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 6/7/2024	47. Macro Energy, Inc.	5/30/2024 SLR-2023-026-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Instruction & Tour Operation	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
21. Atty Corporation dba Atty Dive	5/29/2024 SLR-2023-071-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operations	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 6/7/2024	48. J&K Marine Sports, Inc. dba J&K Marine Sports	6/6/2024 SLR-2023-093-R2	Commercial Water-Jet Craft & Jetavator Activities	World Resort & Kanoa Resort, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
22. Phillips Corporation, Inc.	5/29/2024 SLR-2023-020-R2	Commercial Snorkeling Activities	Grotto, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 6/10/2024	49. J&K Marine Sports, Inc. dba J&K Marine Sports	6/6/2024 SLR-2023-092-R2	Commercial Banana Boat, Wakeboarding, Kayaking, & Snorkeling Activities	World Resort & Kanoa Resort to Managaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
23. Akhil Chandra Mollick dba Ichiban Marine Sports	5/29/2024 SLR-2023-046-R2	Commercial Banana Boat, Wakeboarding, Kayaking, & Snorkeling Operations	All Designated Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 6/6/2024	50. HJ2 Corporation dba Dive World	6/7/2024 SLR-2024-059	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operation & Instructions	Saipan World Resort & Ice Cream Point, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review*
24. United Front Co., LTD. DbA Super Fish Diving	5/30/2024 SLR-2023-041-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving & Instructions & Snorkeling	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 6/7/2024	51. Axe Murderer Tours, LLC. dba Axe Murderer Tours	6/3/2024 SLR-2022-039-R3	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operations	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
25. Selfish Saipan, Inc.	5/30/2024 SLR-2023-057-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Instructions	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 6/10/2024	52. Dive Marianas Corp. dba Dive Saipan	5/29/2024 SLR-2023-047-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Instruction & Tour Operation	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
26. Pacific Ocean Saipan, LLC.	5/30/2024 SLR-2024-052	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operation & Instructions	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete with Condition* 6/7/2024	53. IREI, INC. dba Blue Palms	5/29/2024 RLR-2024-006	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operations	All Designated Dive Sites, Rota	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 6/6/2024
27. Blue & Blue, LLC. dba B&B Tour	5/30/2024 SLR-2023-094-R2	Commercial Snorkeling Tours	All Designated Swim Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 6/10/2024						

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Hamas continues to put its own people in harm's way

Terrorist sympathizers reacted predictably to Israel's daring rescue of four hostages on Saturday, blaming the Jewish state for harming civilians during the raid. This addled logic misses a significant point: Hamas intentionally stashed innocent captives among its own people and then fired on rescuers in a populated area.

Israeli commandos launched the raid—with aid from U.S. intelligence—during broad daylight after determining weeks ago that the hostages were being kept in Nuseirat in the Gaza Strip. One of the captives was in a low-rise apartment building. The Wall Street Journal reported, while the other three were in a nearby building.

The military action started with Israeli airstrikes to create a diversion. Israeli forces then launched simultaneous attacks on the targets. "In one building—where (Noa) Argamani was being held—the officers managed to take her Hamas captors by surprise," an Israeli military spokesman told The New York Times. "In the other, Israeli forces engaged in a difficult firefight before reaching the remaining three hostages, he added."

As the Israelis left the building, Hamas militants were "shooting at them and firing rocket-propelled grenades," the Times reported. But the commandos fought their way out and transported the captives by vehicle to waiting helicopters.

The number of deaths remains unknown. Hamas claimed 274 people were killed, but its casualty counts have been notoriously inflated. One local official told the Times that "many Palestinians" were killed during strikes near a local market.

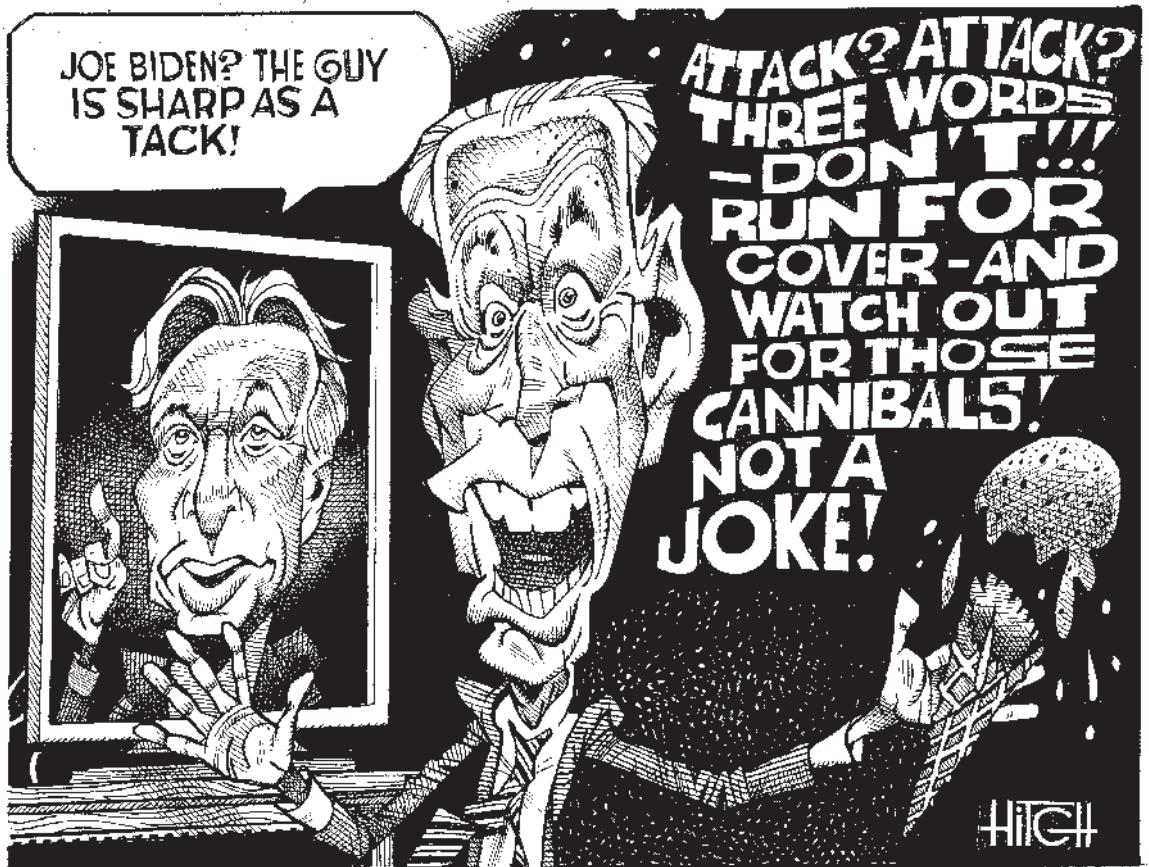
It's worth noting that both sets of hostages were not only held in a civilian area, they were kept in apartments occupied by Gaza families.

Let's recount: Hamas kidnapped more than 200 innocent people during its barbaric foray on Oct. 7 in order to use hostages as leverage. The terrorists then hid some captives among the civilian population in the residences of private families. Hamas leaders, thus, purposely invited the deaths of their own civilians as a means of ginning up international condemnation of Israel.

This despicable and cowardly tactic of hiding among innocents has riled even some Palestinians. "Residents in Nuseirat described it as one of the worst days of the war," the Journal reported about the hostage rescue. But "some also voiced anger at Hamas for holding hostages in residential buildings, endangering the whole area."

Rather than constantly hectoring Israel for responding to a violent terror group that openly seeks to wipe it from the map, the Biden White House should be pressuring Egypt and Qatar to convince Hamas leaders to change course and free the remaining hostages.

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Devastating power of self-doubt

Today's article is likely not for everyone and could be offensive to some, so read at your own risk. I don't know how many of you have ever been fat before? And whether you have or have not, you still may not want to hear what I have to say about it here.

The simple truth is that being fat is not great; in fact, becoming fat is arguably one of the worst things I've ever done to myself. Let me say again for emphasis... what I have done to myself. To be clear, I'm not talking about aesthetics—I've never much cared how I look, but I am talking about how I feel or rather how it hurts (physically, mentally and emotionally). Mind you too that I'm not talking about youthful baby-fat, the occasional buffet inch, or the transient layer of winter warmth, but rather about chronic obesity, defined as "a long-lasting disease that results when you have excess body fat that puts your health at risk"—emphasis on "long-lasting" and "disease." It has taken me 52 long-lasting years of roller coaster rides up and down the weight scale to finally conclude that obesity is in fact a disease (self-inflicted in my case), but a disease nonetheless of the body, mind and soul.

Approximately three weeks ago, I decided to hone in and confront the elephant in the room, if you will, in search of a better version of myself. I concocted some lofty, semi-arbitrary goals (or rather targets) involving weight loss numbers and activity levels then set out to make the "impossible possible." Imagine my surprise upon stepping on a scale for the first time in well over a year and seeing that I weighed 302 lbs.

The scariest part of it all is that I was genuinely shocked—I could never have imagined breaching the 300-lb. threshold. Fatness is a subtle killer that can engulf a person (in plain sight) and be comforting like a warm, fuzzy blanket with him being none the wiser. Even the clearest symptoms of trouble go completely unnoticed, ignored or disassociated, like the frog in a slow boil who thinks he's taking a nice, warm bath until (in most cases) it's too late. I knew I was fat, but I didn't realize to what extent and yes, that sounds ridiculous I know, but that is the truth. Just in case I didn't fully comprehend the gravity of the matter, a true friend of mine bluntly pointed out that, "even Charles Barkley (who for years throughout his NBA career was lambasted and became the brunt of everyone's jokes for being grossly overweight) never reached three hundred pounds." Charles Barkley, for those who may not know, is 6'6" and I'm 5'9" at best... on a swollen feet day. Holy cow! Pun intended though I am not trying to be funny—just laughing in a sad, pitiful sort of way at myself. For most fat people, chronic obesity really is no laughing matter and in many cases they, as with me, won't even recognize the clear and present danger.

Above all else, it is a major health issue associated with

By JIM RAYPHAND

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and is a former executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.



numerous diseases, specifically an increased risk of certain types of cancer, coronary artery disease, type 2 diabetes, stroke and cardiovascular disease, not to mention increases in mortality and economic costs.

There is also no doubt, in my mind, that mental health issues, if not a diagnosable mental illness, play a direct role in the phenomenon of obesity. The sad truth is that many people through no fault of their own fall unto the path of a half-ton life and are either unable or unwilling to do anything about it. The sadder truth is that most people through nobody's fault but their own willfully neglect the tell-tale signs of self-destruction and can, but choose not to do anything about it. Those of us in the latter are the lucky ones and I, for one, am choosing (very publicly I might add) to do something about it. More specifically and to state the obvious, I need to consume less and burn more calories through a more controlled diet and increased physical activity in my daily life.

It is that easy and also that hard. Herein lies the challenge and likely reason why people often give up. The older and bigger you get, the harder it becomes to change any habits you may have developed along the way. Among other things, the weight doesn't come off as easily as it once did and it is very easy to become discouraged (my actual reality at present). We all know or should know the devastating power of self-doubt and should expect to meet it head on and push through it at the gates, if we are to succeed. "I think I can! I think I can!" Yet the mere attempts at reducing calorie consumption can be a mind-boggling head-trip that takes a concerted, obsessive level of effort to manage. And, you may as well be pulling teeth to get a daily workout routine with a sufficient level of rigor started.

The point is for anyone quietly suffering with obesity, it doesn't help to pretend it isn't an issue—the truth is you really can't hide it—and it doesn't help not talk about it; in fact, because so much of it is rooted in psychological issues, I think talking about it (even with yourself) may be a key factor in beating it. Of course, I'm not one to espouse advice on the matter and putting oneself

See **POWER** on Page 9

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

THIS DAY IN CNMI HISTORY: JUNE 15, 1944**Operation Tearaway, the Battle for Saipan**

By DON A. FARRELL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

The U.S. did not start the Pacific War, much less the Battle for Saipan. Japan gets full credit for the death and destruction that resulted from the American invasion and capture of Saipan.

In a very real sense, the battle for Saipan began on Dec. 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor time. Only three hours later, across the International Date Line, Japanese naval aircraft from Saipan's As Lito Airfield bombed Naval Station Guam— Sunday, Dec. 8— during the celebration of Our Lady of Camalin.

Two and half years later, on June 15, 1944, the newly reconstructed U.S. Fifth fleet, including some of the battleships sunk at Pearl Harbor, poured thousands of tons of American steel on Japanese Saipan.

At 0542 Admiral Turner gave the order to land the landing troops. The assault elements of 121st Naval Construction Battalion (the CBs, better known as Seabees), having trained with Marines and wearing Marine uniforms landed with the 4th Marine Division on Blue Beaches No. 1 and No. 2, just south of the sugar dock in Chalan Kanoa.

The heavy cruiser USS *Indianapolis* was among the several big ships firing big guns with big shells over the heads of the Marines as they approached the landing beaches. During the initial phases of the assault, these Seabees also acted as infantry and participated in combat patrols; 10 were killed and 69 wounded, but they got the job done. The "Fighting Seabees" proved their worth many times over at Saipan.

The 18th Naval Construction Battalion served the same duty with the 2nd Marine Division, landing just north of Sugar Dock as Marines in Marine Corps uniforms.

The last wave came ashore at 11:05am by which time 8,000 Marines were fighting for their lives on Saipan. The Japanese fought hard and to the death. The 6th Marine Regiment suffered



A Japanese light tank.

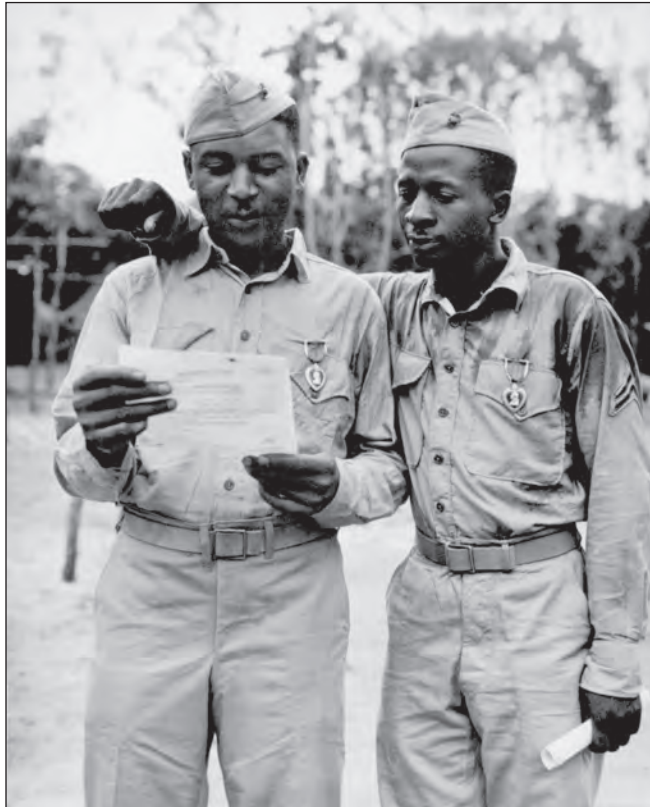
POWER

From page 8

on blast in a public newspaper like this might be overkill... certainly not for the faint of heart. Still the hope is that this reaches someone who needs to hear it. We are not alone; in fact, a 2019 *U.S. News* article reported obesity as "a public health issue that impacts more than 100 million adults and children in the U.S."

As for those lofty goals I set out for myself a few weeks ago, though it is completely unnoticeable to look at me, I have managed to shave off 15 lbs. of body weight thus far and my fastest mile to date was 13 minutes and 47 seconds. That run came with an injury to my knee, but such is life as a "fatso guy"—soon to be formerly known as such. Let's do this!

For any information relating to lifestyle disabilities and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, please contact us at (670) 322-6537/8 or online at www.ovrgov.net.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

African-American U.S. soldier during World War II.

35% casualties, a little over one out of every three men killed or wounded that first day.

Among those 8,000 Marines were African-American Marines from the 7th Field Depot, including the 18th, 19th and 20th Depot Companies. By signing Executive Order Number 8802 in 1942, President Roosevelt had authorized enlisting African-Americans into the Marine Corps. The first units trained were incorporated into "defense battalions" intended to defend captured forward bases. In the case of Saipan, that directive put Black Marines on the offensive in combat for the first time in WWII. Several paid the ultimate price.

At about 1pm, the Marines who continued to drive east from the beach road ran into a swamp surrounding Lake Susupe. With every man needing a rest, they were ordered to dig in for the night. The stench of dead bodies, or pieces of bodies, Japanese and American, became overwhelming. About 10% of the American landing force had become casualties—over 2,000 Marines had been killed or wounded. Although the beachhead was 10,000 yards long, it was narrow. The first day's objective, the O-1 line, would not be reached for another three days.

That night, the Japanese launched a counterattack. It was a long and frightening experience, with the Japanese coming out



LVTs move toward Saipan, past bombarding cruisers on June 15, 1944.



Saipan burning after the U.S. Navy bombardment, left is the sugar mill in Chalan Kanoa.



The Sugar Dock and pontoon pier in Chalan Kanoa.

of the jungle in strength to attack the Marine lines over and over again from different angles. One attack was supported by tanks.

Gunnery Sergeant Robert H. McCard, 4th Tank Battalion, was awarded the Medal of Honor, posthumously, "for remaining alone at his disabled tank, and firing upon the enemy in order that men of his crew might make good their withdrawal."

Spruance made a key decision. He was informed that the Japanese fleet was coming out to fight. To ensure the Marines on Saipan had all the support they might need, General Holland Smith, USMC, gave orders to land the floating reserve, the 27th Infantry Division (less the 106th Infantry Regiment) on the southern beaches near Agingan Point. They were to relieve the right flank of the 4th Marine Division and capture As Lito Airfield. Due to the impending naval battle, all transport ships were ordered to weigh anchor and put to sea, not to return until June 25.

Spruance postponed the invasion of Guam, originally scheduled for June 18, allowing time for a new floating reserve, the Army's 77th Infantry Division, to arrive from Hawaii. Spruance sent all remaining unnecessary ships to the east side of Saipan and Tinian in case Admiral Jisaburo Ozawa, commander of the Japanese Mobile Fleet, divided his ships to try an end run.

The pending Battle of the Philippine Sea was bad news for Guam. The preinvasion bombardment of Guam had already begun, revealing the planned landing beaches to the Japanese defenders. In the five weeks it would take commence operations in Guam, the Japanese visited horrific atrocities against Guam's Chamorro population.

The invasion of Tinian was tentatively set for July 24.

Don A. Farrell is an educator, local historian, and author based on Tinian. He is known for his research and publications on the history of the Mariana Islands with an emphasis on World War II.



Q&A with dads

By NHORLEEN BITCO-LILLES and
CHRISTINE HAYAG
Special to Saipan Tribune

Father's Day is almost here, and it's the perfect time to celebrate the amazing dads in our lives. These dads are our everyday heroes, always there to support, guide, protect, and inspire us. This year, *Saipan Tribune* decided to shine a spotlight on some of the wonderful fathers in our island community and invited them to participate in a special Q&A session where they could share their experiences, wisdom, and the unique joys and challenges of fatherhood. By highlighting their stories, we hope to celebrate not only their contributions to their children and families but also to our community as a whole, showcasing the great influence they have on those around them.

LT. GOV. DAVID M. APATANG
Apatang is the 13th lieutenant governor of the CNMI.

What is your most cherished memory with your children and why does it hold a special place in your heart?
Every day and everything are my most cherished moments with my children. From the moment they were born to the present time, every moment is special in my life. They share their understanding of their surroundings with me in each of their own unique ways. I am very grateful to God for giving me wonderful children.

What is the most important lesson you've learned from being a father and how has it influenced your approach to parenting?
Being present for them all the time and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang with daughter Elaine during his and Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' inauguration ceremony at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.



Celebrating all Dads who make every moment special!

Happy Father's Day



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loving them no matter how tough life sometimes gets. Parenting requires balancing of many things in life and I learned to make adjustments every day as the relationship between parents and children requires it.

How do you prioritize quality time with your children amidst the demands of work and daily life and what activities do you enjoy doing together?
My time with my children is never prioritized because my children come first. Everything else after my children could be prioritized, even my work. Time after school and an eight-hour day at work were quality time with my children. Dinner time and weekends were reserved for my children. Now my children are adults and have their own family, but we still make time to get together on special occasions and holidays.

What values do you strive to instill in your children and how do you model these values in your everyday interactions with them?
Respect others and honor our elders. My upbringing in a traditional Chamorro home

with loving parents taught me to be humble, respectful, honest, and accepting of others. As my children got older and more mature, I reminded them of these important teachings and to follow them to the best they could.

What does being a dad mean to you and what legacy do you hope to leave for your children as they grow older?
Being a father is a responsibility that does not have a time off, a vacation from the children, and an end at any time before death. I only want to leave the most realistic guidance for my children that they, too, will carry on, and that is, to be honest, respectful, caring for others, and to work to survive on their own and help others within their power.

JESSE PALACIOS
Palacios is the corporate director of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

What is your most cherished memory with your children and why does it hold a special place in your heart?
My most cherished memories with my children are the
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moments I witnessed their births, each one a miraculous and unique experience. Being the first, along with my wife, to welcome them into this world is just indescribable. These memories hold a special place in my heart because God has blessed us with three wonderful children to raise, to watch them grow and for them to have families of their own.

What is the most important lesson you've learned from being a father and how has it influenced your approach to parenting?

The most important lesson I've learned from being a father is the profound sense of responsibility it entails. As the head of the household, my family depends on me for their physical and emotional well-being. This responsibility shapes my approach to parenting by emphasizing the importance of nurturing my children to be loving, respectful and responsible individuals. Knowing they look up to me, I strive to be a good role model for them by practicing what you preach.

How do you prioritize quality time with your children amidst the demands of work and daily life and what activities do you enjoy doing together?

Despite the demands of work, and at times I still do work at home, I make a conscious effort to set aside my tasks to spend quality time with our children. We talk about school, what they are up to, what they need and so forth. I help them

with their school assignments and attend their activities, showing my support and interest in their passions. We cherish our outdoor adventures, whether hiking through nature or enjoying the beach, and going on family trips, creating lasting memories and strengthening our bond.

What values do you strive to instill in your children and how do you model these values in your everyday interactions with them?

I strive to instill values of respect, compassion, and integrity in my children. I teach them to respect the elderly, the environment, and our community. By demonstrating compassion and helping others in need, I show them the importance of empathy. I encourage them to do what is right and provide assistance without expecting anything in return, modeling these values through my actions and daily interactions with them.

What does being a dad mean to you and what legacy do you hope to leave for your children as they grow older?

Being a dad means putting my family first and serving as a constant source of love, support, and guidance. It involves making sacrifices to ensure our children have the best opportunities and grow into responsible, kind-hearted individuals. I hope to leave a legacy of familial support, integrity, and love, so that our children will always know they have someone to lean on, someone to count on and someone who has established a strong foundation to build their lives upon.

BRAD RUSZALA
Ruszala is a communications consultant with Commonwealth Communications

What is your most cherished memory with your children and why does it hold a special place in your heart?

Some of the best moments with my children are when we get into a conversation with a seemingly endless circle of jokes that spirals into us laughing about the most ridiculous things, complete with callbacks to other silly conversations with equally ridiculous things that inspire deeper laughter.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Brad Ruszala with wife Kathy and children Leilani and Keoni.

What is the most important lesson you've learned from being a father, and how has it influenced your approach to parenting?

I used to think I needed to be perfect in every aspect of parenting in order to be a successful dad, but I've learned that sometimes the most important thing is just to be present.

How do you prioritize quality time with your children amidst the demands of work and daily life, and what activities do you enjoy doing together?

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jesse Palacios with wife Mylyn and children Layla, Jesse Joseph, and Tricia.

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Here's to the dads who fill our lives with laughter, love, and unwavering support. Your presence brings us endless joy and happiness. Today is your day to relax and feel appreciated.

HAPPY
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To every dad who holds a special place in our hearts, you are the anchor of our families and the source of endless love and support. Your presence in our lives is truly a blessing.

Happy
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Day!

FROM THE MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF



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Earlier this year, I realized that I'll only have a few years left with our children before they go off to college and that I need to make the most of that time because I'll never have the opportunity to spend this much time with them again. I left a great job with a great company and launched a company of my own in order to prioritize my time around them. Now I can spend time with them as their dad, as their coach, and as someone who can just be with them when it matters most.

What values do you strive to instill in your children and how do you model these values in your everyday interactions with them?

If we're successful, our children will grow up to have a healthy sense of humor, they'll view the world through relatively sane and normal eyes, they'll be accepting of others

with different lifestyles and points of view, and they'll know the difference between what is proper and what is not.

What does being a dad mean to you and what legacy do you hope to leave for your children as they grow older?

I'm not completely sure what being a dad means to me, but my understanding of what I'm supposed to be for my children has changed since I was a kid. I'm tough when I think the situation calls for it, and I struggle to be patient when my veneer wears thin. I'm their team coach when other parents aren't able to step up, and I'm there to supplement what others have taught. At the best of times, I'm their laughing buddy, and I hope they feel safe to come to me at their worst. I hope they will be strong in character, steadfast in their commitments, and brave when others wilt. More than anything, I hope that when they think of me as their father, they feel loved by someone who would do anything for them.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marvin Buston with his wife AC and children Liam and Arriane.

MARVIN BUSTON

Buston is an admin manager with HBR International Inc.

What is your most cherished memory with your children and why does it hold a special place in your heart?

Holding my children in my arms while they were days old is still my most cherished memory. The feeling of extraordinary joy that first time I carried my children close to my heart

What is the most important lesson you've learned from being a father, and how has it influenced your approach

to parenting?

Being a father you will do everything to support, protect, and love your family. I also learned that being a father gives you the responsibility for your children's future. These enable me to wake up each day and continue working hard for my family with so much inspiration, joy in my heart, and an outpouring of love for my children which I try to show them every day.

How do you prioritize quality time with your children amidst the demands of work and daily life and what activities do you enjoy doing

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Happy Father's Day, Pa! Thank you for making sure we have food in our stomachs and a roof over our heads. We appreciate everything you do. — **Bryan and Adrian Bravo, Chinatown**



Happy Father's Day, Dad! Thank you for being my rock and my biggest supporter. Your never-ending love, guidance, and encouragement have shaped me into who I am today. Cheers to celebrating you and all that you do. Love you always! Happy Father's Day, Daddy! — **Esrah Serano, Chalan Kiya**



Happy Father's Day, Daddio! For all that you do and continue to do, I am so grateful for you. Thank you for being our protector and one of my best friends in life. I love you, Dad! — **Love, Platy, San Antonio**

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



To the most hardworking dad, thank you for your undying love and support. We love you so much!! Happy Father's day!! — **Abby Das, Garapan**

Happy Father's Day, Dad! My inspiration and role model. You are the greatest gift from God. You have always guided us to go on the right path and secured us. I appreciate everything you have done for our family. We are so blessed to have you as our dad. We love you so much, today and always! — **Micaiah Corpuz, Navy Hill**



Happy Father's Day, Big Daddy! Thanks for always taking care of our family. Thanks for always being the hardworking, funny, handsome man that we all love and I couldn't be the man I am today without you. You are the foundation of the Canape Family and will always be THE MAN! — **John Canape, Finasisu**



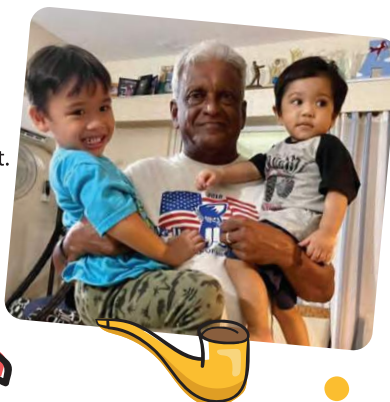
The no. 1 man in our lives who we are forever grateful for through all of our ups, downs, laughs, and cries. We love you, Papa <3 — **Barbo family, Chinatown**



To our Papa, our tough guy, for your many sacrifices to give us a good education, ensuring your children will have a better future. For waking up at 4am each day to go to work so you could put food on the table. For always boasting to anyone who will listen about your children and their achievements. For being faithful and loving to our mother and our family always. And for fiercely protecting us like a lion protects his cubs and lioness. A lot of men could learn from you because you are a family man through and through. Happy Father's Day, Papa! I love you! — **Your one and only Ulen, Garapan**



To the most hardworking dad, thank you for your undying love and support. We love you so much!! Happy Father's day!! — **Love always, Your Bonita, Finasisu**



As we raise a toast on this Father's Day, let's salute the dads who make the world a better place with their kindness, compassion, and unwavering dedication to their families. This Bud's for you!

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

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DADS

From page 12

together?

Working long hours Monday until Saturday is challenging, however realizing the importance of constant connection with my children I see to it that we have bonding time before going to bed. We find some time playing with each other, working on some school items, and even cracking jokes together. Every time I pick up my kids from school I make sure to ask them "How's your school day?"

What values do you strive to instill in your children and how do you model these values in your everyday interactions with them?

I make sure that my kids are grateful and are God-fearing. At their young ages, me and my wife teach them that everything is a blessing from God. Hence every meal that we eat and every blessing that we receive, we teach our kids to say thank you, Lord. Also, we teach them to be grateful to the people around us. I also keep on teaching them the love of education. Me and my wife are constantly involved in our kid's school matters. I am very fortunate to have

a loving wife who is really very detailed and dedicated to making sure that our kids are always on track when it comes to school.

What does being a dad mean to you and what legacy do you hope to leave for your children as they grow older?

Being a dad can be described in one word, it's commitment. Children are blessings from God. Being a daddy is the commitment that I will take care of these blessings. Being a Dad I have the absolute commitment to providing for my kids, in loving my kids, protecting them, and also leading them to the right path. I would like my kids to see that I am committed, in the same way, I would like to see them committed in the future in whatever purpose they want to have as adults. While doing all these, I would like them to feel how much I love them and how much my kids occupy the space in my heart. Now more than ever I understand the love and support that my father has given me. Growing up we lacked financially but never did we lack love and care from my father. He wasn't a perfect person, but his love for me and my siblings is selfless. Now that my father is gone, it is my vow to

honor him by being the best dad I could be.

SPENCER FLOYD

Floyd is flight controller with Midwest ATC.

What does being a father mean to you?

Being a father is taking on a multifaceted role that has you being a guardian, custodian, provider, and teacher. Instilling values providing guidance for my child to become a good citizen in today's world is essential.

Being a father is my most challenging and rewarding experience.

What is your most cherished memory with your children and why does it hold a special place in your heart?



Spencer Floyd with wife Racquel and son Darius.

My most cherished memory with my child is seeing him walk for the first time. That memory holds a special place for me because my child is a natural explorer, always taking every opportunity to explore wherever his curiosity takes him.

What is the most important lesson you've learned from being a father, and how has it influenced your approach to parenting?

The most important lesson I've learned from being a father is the importance of time. It's easy to say next time or later, I make sure to prioritize his needs whether it's playtime or just having a conversation with him.

How do you prioritize

quality time with your children amidst the demands of work and daily life and what activities do you enjoy doing together?

I'm fortunate that I have a rotating schedule so I'm able plan activities such as going to the beach or park. Our favorites activity is playing at the water park in Saipan World Resort.

TAI DORAM

Doram is the Learning and Behavior Specialist with the Public School System

What is your most cherished memory with your children, and why does it hold a special place in your heart?

My greatest achievements in life have not been degrees, places visited, money, wealth, homes, or property. No, my greatest achievement has been being a father!

There is no greater joy than seeing the birth of your child and holding that little person in your arms. All that I do in life is hopefully to help make the world a better place for all, but especially for my family.

Each day I look upon them and smile. The reality of science, religion, and creation all join together when this little being first appears to the world.

What is the most important lesson you've learned from being a father and how has it influenced your approach to parenting?

As an educator, I feel like all students are my children. Daily I strive to make a difference in the lives of those I touch. Education keeps you honest and humble. Being a parent keeps me young and dynamic! The world is forever changing, through my children I have been able to grow and develop a better understanding of those around me. So, patience, toler-

ance, forgiveness, and humanity/humility have been lessons learned.

How do you prioritize quality time with your children amidst the demands of work and daily life and what activities do you enjoy doing together?

I believe in this rushed world we live in we must learn to "buy time" for those around us that we love. So, each day, there are times that are devoted to family and family only. It may seem strange, but we budget every day. Why not make sure that the time is with family even if it is at the TV, painting, building, gym, ocean, or park, they are included or I am included since it is their favorite place.

What values do you strive to instill in your children and how do you model these values in your everyday interactions with them?

Integrity, trust, tolerance, patience, empowerment, peace/self-worth, and empathy are values I hope I model can strive to instill in my children. I am a firm believer that I am a facilitator of empowerment for others, it is a gift from Heaven I firmly believe. Each and every day I want to be a better person and strive to walk my talk. From that, I pray they follow. If so, then happiness in life will be theirs.

What does being a dad mean to you and what legacy do you hope to leave for your children as they grow older?

Each and every day I praise God for giving me this opportunity to serve others and most importantly to be a father. God, in turn, has blessed me with wonderful people throughout my life that has inspired, pushed, and pulled me to be the person I am today, a father!



Tai Doram with his wife YongWen and daughter Ya'Rliis.

To the unsung heroes who tirelessly work behind the scenes, quietly shaping our lives with their love, sacrifice, and unwavering support. Today, we recognize and appreciate all that you do.

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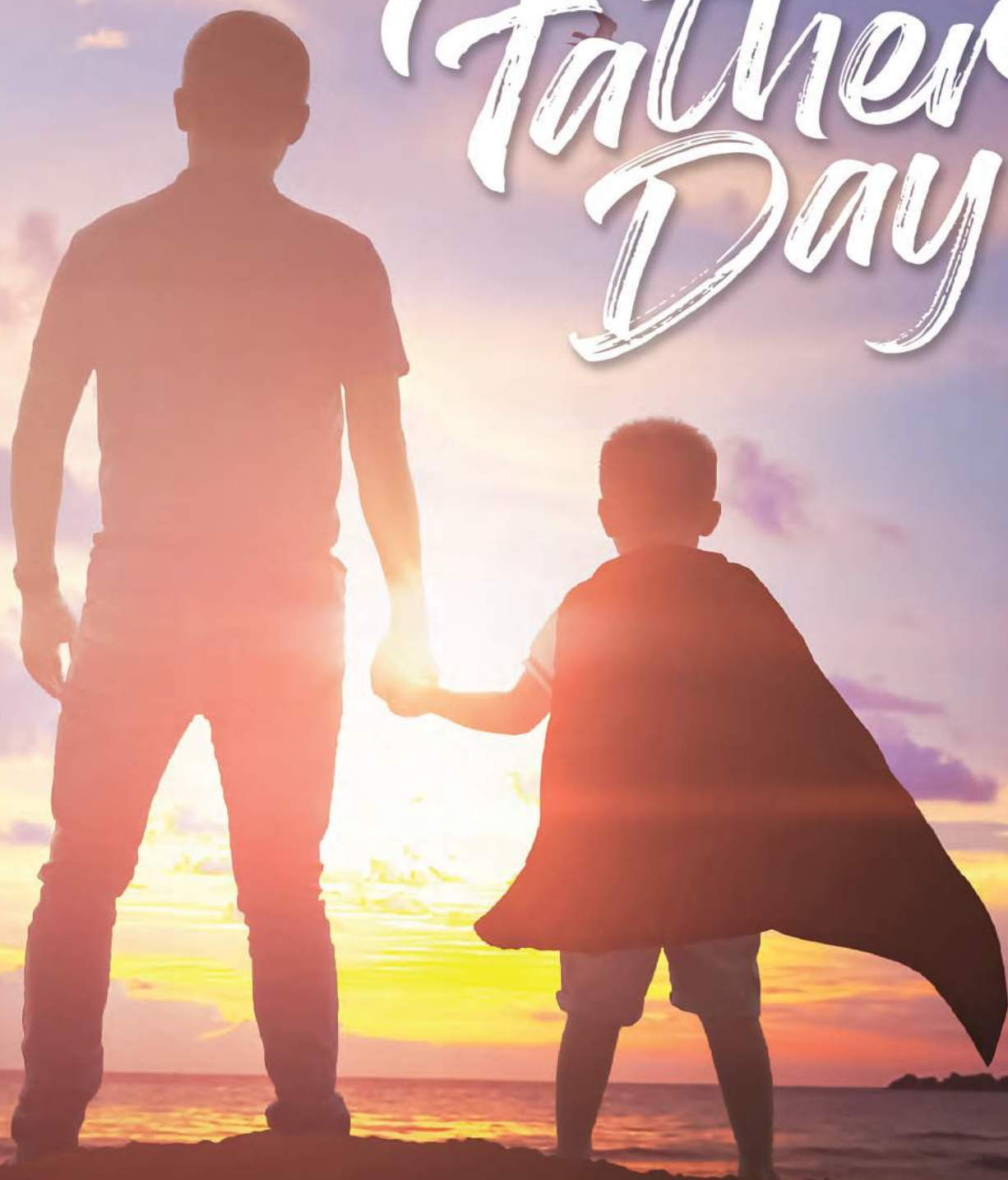
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Team NMI aims big for 2024 Micro Games

The 110-strong CNMI delegation to the 2024 Micronesian Games are off to Majuro, Marshall Islands to compete in the quadrennial event.

The Northern Marianas Sports Association, thanks to a boatload of sponsors, will be sending teams to compete in eight sports in the quadrennial event—athletics, basketball (men’s and women’s 5x5), beach volleyball, softball (women’s), swimming, tennis, weightlifting, and wrestling.

Athletics (June 19-23), beach volleyball (June 15-18), softball (June 17-23) will all



The CNMI National Athletics Team for the 2024 Micronesian Games, from left, Ronald Olopai, Douglas Schmidt, Simon Tang, Cody Shimizu, Justin Camacho, Jared Ayuyu, Christopher Cruz Jr., Derek Rangamar, Alexander Camacho, Daniel Joab, Pony Tang, Takeru Jim, Kina Rangamar, Cheraline Epity, Maria Igitol Quitugua, and Liamwar Rangamar. Not pictured is coach Elias Rangamar and athletes Tania Tan, Casey Cruz, Zarinae Sapong, and Theodore Rodgers.

be held at the Majuro Track & field; basketball (June 17-23) at the Education and Cultural Center; tennis (June 19-21) at the NCD Tennis Court/ USP Tennis Court; swimming (June 17-21) at the Kwajalein Pool; and weightlifting (June 17-18) and wrestling (June 22-24) share the same venue at the International Convention Center.

The 22 sponsors of Team NMI are Joeten Daidai Foundation, Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, Skechers, Marianas Express Lines Ltd. as platinum sponsors. Triple J Enterprise, E-Land, TakeCare Insurance, and D&Q International Distributors are gold sponsors.

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TEAM

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The following are the profiles of all eight teams bound to the Marshall Islands for the 2024 Micronesian Games.

Athletics

Northern Marianas Athletics is positive that athletes participating in track and field events in the 2024 Micronesian Games will surpass the NMI's medal output from the 2018 edition of the competition.

Head coach Elias Rangamar said that NMA is confident of the team's chances to win more medals in the Marshall Islands and is counting on the group's entries in middle distance and relay races and jump events in delivering the goods for the NMI delegation. During the 2018 Micronesian Games held in Yap, the NMI won two gold medals, four silvers, and six bronzes in the athletics competition.

Zarinae Sapong handed the NMI one of the two gold medals in 2018 when she topped the 200m race, while Rachel Abrams gave the islands the other gold medal in the high jump event. Sapong will lead the NMI Athletics Team in this year's Micro Games and will be joined on the squad by

2023 Solomon Islands Pacific Games double gold medalist (5,000m and 10K races) Tania Tan. Competing the team are Lia and Kina Rangamar, Maria Quitugua, Cheraline Epity, Casey Cruz, Takeru Jim, Daniel Joab, Alexander Camacho, Bwilitomwar Rangamar, Christopher Cruz, Jared Ayuyu, Lyle Pedro, Pony and Simon Tang, Justin Camacho, Cody Shimizu, Theodore Rodgers, and Douglas Schmidt. Ronald Olopai and Robin Sapong are joining Elias Rangamar on the team officials list.

"Our athletes are in good shape and working very hard in our training sessions. The expectations are high, especially with many of them earning experience when they competed in the 2023 Pacific Games and the Oceania Championships last year, and some are competing in this year's Oceania meet in Fiji. I am confident we will definitely have more medal chances in this year's Micronesian Games," Elias Rangamar said. The longtime athletics coach is also pleased to share that they have a bunch of high school athletes on the team.

"This is good news, as we really want to discover and train young talents and to them, this experience in the Micro Games in the Marshall Islands is a good training opportunity. Their participation in the Micro Games is also important as we prepare for next year's Pacific Mini Games in Palau," Rangamar said.

Basketball (Men's)

NMI Men's National Basketball Team head coach Rufino Aguon said their goal is to get



The CNMI National Women's Basketball Team for the 2024 Micronesian Games, from left back row, coach Connie Camacho, Sylvia Simram, Michelle Kautz, Azriel Fatialofa, Alliyah Fernandez, and Madeleine Alegre. Front row, from left, Kaia Travilla, Destiny Pangelinan, Yasmeen Younis, Lalaine Pagarao, Lia Rangamar, and Cassandra Camacho.

into the Top 4 of the hoops competition of the 2024 Micronesian Games.

Aguon, who returned from coaching the NMI national basketball team after retiring in 2010, said their biggest challenge is Guam—along with the long flight to get to Majuro.

In the last Micro Games in 2018, Guam swept the men's and women's basketball competition. Second place in the men's was Marshall Islands, with Pohnpei in third place. For the women's, Marshall Islands was second as well, while Palau took third place.

Aguon said they do not

have the set schedule yet, but said their strategy is, if there's going to be a pool, they need to be first or at least second.

Even with tough competition, he said they have some additions that may be a boost to the team.

A fly-in from Oklahoma, 17-year-old and 6'5" Antoni Ogumoro—Aguon's grandson—is part of the NMI's 12-man roster. Ogumoro said on the chance to represent NMI in the Micro Games, "This will be my first time participating and I'm very excited."

Aguon, with Ogumoro's build, said, "Of course at 6'5," I welcome anybody

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The CNMI National Men's Basketball Team for the 2024 Micronesian Games, from left back row, head coach Rufino Aguon, Coby Santos, Jack Lizama, Antoni Ogumoro, Djay Ong, Marvin Manibusan, Chioni Dela Cruz, and Team NMI deputy chef de mission James Lee. Front row, from left, Greg Sablan, Douglas Schmidt, Aiferson Atan, Lucio Aldan, Airson Atan, and Preston Basa.



The CNMI National Beach Volleyball Team for the 2024 Micronesian Games, from left, Jermaine Salas, coach Tyce Mister, and Kathy Winkfield. Not present is Aurora Santos and Dylan Mister.



Best of luck to all the athletes at the
2024 Micronesian Games
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Hafa Adail
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TEAM

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with that height. If only we had a couple more... but he's a good addition to us. It's going to make us competitive. As for medaling, it's all up to us once we get there and see the competition."

Another possible addition might be Philippine Basketball Association all-star player and champion Jericho Cruz, who lived on Saipan and was a member of the NMI National Basketball Team. "It's a 50/50 possibility because they're in the [PBA] finals right now. If they go up to seven games, it's way past the [Micro Games]," said Aguon.

He said that even if the final team roster is now set with Ogumoro, Lucio Aldan, Airson Atan, Aiferson Atan, Douglas Schmidt, Preston Basa, Coby Santos, Chioni Dela Cruz, Greg Sablan, Marvin Rabauliman, DJay Ong, and Jack Lizama, he can still make changes before the basketball technical meeting.

"If he can make it by the time we play on [June] 17th, then I have to make a decision who's going to sit. If not, this is the team," said Aguon.

Basketball (Women's)

The NMI National Women's Basketball Team is out for redemption in the 2024 Micronesian Games in Majuro, Marshall Islands.

Since 1998, the women's national team has medaled in the Micronesian Games with the exception of the 2018 Games.

After that fall in the 2018 Games in Yap, head coach Connie Camacho said she expects the team to "be competitive and to redeem ourselves by placing NMI Women's Basketball as one of the top three teams in Micronesia."

She said that the biggest challenge for their podium run will be the back-to-back games and the young players ability to learn quickly and adapt under pressure.

Their strengths, Camacho said, is their height with centers Azriel Fatialofa and Madeleine Alegre, and "the experience that we bring with players that have played in the past Micronesian Games."

The final touches of training before competition were polishing up their offense and defense, as well as adjusting and learning how to play with fly-in Alliyah Fernandez, who will practice with the team for the first time today.

As for their team's pool, Camacho said that Palau pulled out their team so they expect changes in their pool play. Basketball competitions are slated for Monday, June 17 until Sunday, June 23.

The team's 11-woman ros-

ter with Fatialofa, Alegre, and Fernandez, are Sylvina Simram, Yasmeen Younis, Kaia Travilla, Michelle Kautz, Lia Rangamar, Destiny Pangelinan, Lalaine Pagarao, and Cassandra Camacho.

Beach volleyball

The small NMI National Beach Volleyball Team has a strong chance of a podium finish in the 2024 Micronesian Games in Majuro, Marshall Islands.

Despite powerhouse duo Logan Mister and Andrew Johnson not being on the team, coach Tyce Mister said that Aurora Santos, Kathy Winkfield, Dylan Mister, and Jermaine Salas have a lot to bring to the Games.

"Our men's team is young, but they both have some great volleyball experience under their belts. They are both very fast on defense and their positive attitude will also synergize. Our women's team will capitalize on their experience," he said about the 2024 Micronesian Games beach volleyball team.

Winkfield has many years of volleyball experience under her belt and was on the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games beach volleyball team. Dylan is the younger brother of NMPMG silver medalist and 2023 Pacific Games bronze medalist Logan.

As for training, both Winkfield and Salas have been practicing on Saipan's beaches with coach Tyce, and assistance from Chris Nelson and Jacoby Winkfield.

Santos, on the other hand, has been training in Colorado near Denver, where there are a variety of beach courts set up, while Dylan has been training in Southern California with his brother national team pool player Logan.

The biggest challenge then, said Tyce, is that they have all been training apart from their partner. "They all are experienced and will have similar styles of play, but the lack of time to gel together on the court will be a challenge," he said. However, he also said, "They will adapt quickly."

Softball (Women's)

The NMI Women's National Fastpitch Softball Team is looking forward to seeing action in the 2024 Micronesian Games as well as what's after following the completion of the competition in the Marshall Islands.

The excitement buildup for the Micro Games is evident, as it will be the NMI's first to field a women's fastpitch softball team in the regional event since 2006 when Saipan hosted the meet.

"Since this is our first since 2006, the girls are both excited and nervous. Excited because

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LEIGH GASES
The CNMI National Swimming Team, from left, coaches Richard Sikkell, Hiro Kimura, and David Roberto Jr, Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation vice president John Hirsh, swimmers Richard Zhao, Kouki Watanabe, Kean Pajarillaga, Michael Miller, Justin Ma, Isaiah Aleksenko, Nagi Tenorio, Frances Raho, Maria Guerrero, Shoko Litulumar, Maria Batallones, and Sari Barman, and team manager Yuko Kimura.

TEAM

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last year, they had no idea they will go to Marshalls and represent the NMI. Nervous and pressured because it will be their first time to compete outside our local leagues and they will go up against players that are way more experienced than them,” team manager Manny Sablan said.

Sablan also said that while they are definitely going all out to win a medal in the Micro Games, the team’s participation in next month’s competition means more than the hardware.

“We’re hoping that with us having a women’s fastpitch



LEIGH GASES
The CNMI National Tennis Team for the 2024 Micronesian Games, from right, head coach Jeff Race, Hannah Chae, Hoo Wang, Irin Chung, Colin Ramsey, Si Woo Lee, and team manager John Bradley.

softball team in the Micro Games, this would revive the sport in the NMI and encourage more women to play fastpitch. We have many talents out there, especially the youth, just waiting to be tapped and looking for venues to showcase their talents. We need to get these women/girls out to compete in local leagues and interscholastic level,” the team manager said.

In this year’s Micronesian Games that will run from June 15 to 24, the NMI Women’s National Fastpitch Softball Team will be battling Palau, Pohnpei, and host Marshall Islands. The team is made up of Ashlie Aguon, Christy Aldan, Jaylina Borja, Kiara Borja, Angel Deleon Guer-

rero, Rayna Deleon Guerrero, Jenisha Dubrall, Mayiah Duenas, Britney Gopez, Destiny Pangelinan, Alannah Sablan, Rosie Saralu, Kiana Aldan, Jhaneeka Atalig, Kiana Camacho, and Keolani Rios. Also on the team are coaches Deron Flores, Mariano Aguon, and Mark Flores.

“We have seen significant improvements from the girls since we started training in February. Their hitting and field have improved a lot. The most challenging part would be the pitching and we are working hard almost every day to address that area. Most of our pitchers are used to slow-pitch so the coaches are doing their best to help them

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LEIGH GASES

The CNMI National Women's Fast Pitch Softball Team for the 2024 Micronesian Games, from left, coach Derron Flores, Maiyah Duenas, coach Mark Flores, Rosie Saralu, Alannah Sablan, Britney Gopez, Kiana Camacho, Jenisha Dubrall, Rayna Deleon Guerrero, Angel Deleon Guerrero, Kiara Borja, Jaylina Borja, Kianu Aldan, Keolani Rios, Ashlie Aguon, Christie Aldan, Jhaneeka Atalig, manager Manny Sablan, and coach Mario Aguon. Not pictured is Destiny Pangelinan.

TEAM

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make the big adjustment,” Sa-
blan said.

Swimming

The CNMI National Swim-
ming Team to the 2024 Mi-
cronesian Games in Majuro,
Marshall Islands will be the
best of the best the Northern
Marianas can offer when it
comes to aquatics excellence.
The swimming competi-
tion, which includes both pool
and open water, will be held
from June 17 to 21.
Making up the team are Isa-

iah Aleksenko, Kean Pajaril-
laga, Kouki Watanabe, Justin
Ma, Richard Zhao, Michael
Miller, Shoko Litulumar, Ma-
ria Batallones, Sari Barman,
Maria Guerrero, Piper Raho,
and Nagi Tenorio.
National coach Hiroyu-
ki Kimura said he expects
Aleksenko, Pajarillaga, and
Batallones to sweep the gold
medals in the events they're
competing in, while Watanabe
and Litulumar are primed to
take the top spot in their back-
stroke and breaststroke events,
respectively. Same for Guer-
rero in the 200m butterfly.
For Ma and Zhao, Kimu-
ra expects either a silver or

bronze for both of them, while
Barman can salvage a medal
in the 50m butterfly.
He feels confident that all
nine can bring home a medal
each back to the CNMI.
“It doesn't matter what
color of medal. Standing on
the podium is the most impor-
tant. My mindset is ‘conquer
all gold medals.’ This is the
ultimate goal that no national
swim team has achieved yet
in the Micro Games. But we
have very high possibility for
it this time. However, this is
difficult. This goal can only
be achieved with working to-
gether,” said Kimura.
National coach Richard

Sikkel, meanwhile, expects
Miller, Raho, and Tenorio
to all make the finals in their
events in the 2024 Microne-
sian Games and “possibly eke
out medals here and there.”
“Nagi is swimming the
breaststroke events. Michael
and Piper have been focusing
in their training on the longer
distance free events like the
800m and 1,500m. Piper will
also do backstroke as this is
her strong stroke. Training has
been good. These three had the
opportunity to swim in Austra-
lia and experience competition
conditions not too long ago so
there are well prepped to swim
their fastest times,” he said.

Tennis

Long-time NMI National
Tennis Team coach Jeff Race
will be bringing in veterans
and up-and-coming netters
to 2024 Micronesian Games
in Majuro.
“We have both men's and
women's teams that have a
mix of experience and youth.
I'm looking forward to hav-
ing Robbie [Schorr] and Isa-
bel [Herras] there to help lead
the teams. We'll definitely
be in the medal hunt and we
have a great chance to bring
some gold medals back for the
CNMI,” he said.
Aside from 2021 Pacific
Mini Games medalist Schorr

leading the men's squad and
former collegiate standout
Heras taking charge in the
women's division, the team
is also made up of multi-titled
Colin Ramsey, Siwoo Lee,
Hannah Chae, Hoo Wang, and
Irin Chung and team manager
John Martin Bradley.
The NMI will be back in
the tennis competition after
missing the 2014 edition of
the Micro Games in Pohnpei
and following the exclusion of
tennis in the calendar of events
for the 2018 Micro Games in
Yap. The last time NMI play-
ers saw action in the Micro
Games was in 2010 in Palau
See TEAM on Page 21



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TEAM

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with the squad collecting three gold medals, two silvers, and four bronzes.

Race, who incidentally had his last stint with the NMI as a player in the 2010 Micronesian Games where he completed the islands' sweep in the men's singles (Todd Montgomery and Peter Loyola winning the gold and silver), said all members of the team bound for Marshall Islands have done well in training and are not lacking in game experiences so they are battle ready for the medals at stake in this year's Micro Games.

In fact, Lee, Chae, Chung, and Wang recently played in the J30 Saipan-Northern Marianas Junior Championships—an event under the ITF World Tennis Tour Junior Calendar. The NMI junior players went up against representatives of Korea, Australia, Japan, Guam, Hong Kong, and Great Britain. Ramsey, on the other hand, is a regular in local competitions and played for the NMI in the 2023 Pacific Games in the Solomon Islands last November.

Weightlifting

The NMI National Weightlifting Team is a mix of experience and youth and is set to take on the weightlifting platform and

bring home some medals.

Veteran NMI weightlifters are Team NMI's flagbearer Antonette Labausa, Riella Ichiuo, and Leowell Cristobal, while up-and-coming weightlifters are Kaya Rasa, Jaden Andrew, Lucio Eugenio, and Joseph Pangelinan. They are coached by NMI Weightlifting Federation president John Davis.

Davis said of the team, "I like our chances—we will bring home some medals—maybe not as many as the past, but some."

"Our new guys are going to be a part of that medal count—I think. There might be some bronze and maybe even some silver—we'll see," he said.

As for how the team was selected, he said they invited them to train in their training center inside the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. "We gave them a look over and if they lifted enough weight and looked good doing it, we invited them to work on the team," he said.

Davis said that their youngest lifter is both Andrew and Eugenio. Andrew has some international competition experience, while it's Eugenio's first time. He said he'll see how both will do and if competing in the 2025 Pacific Mini Games in Palau is in their future.

With Labausa selected as Team NMI's flagbearer, Davis said, "it was past due. She

See TEAM on Page 22



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Best of luck

Team Marianas!

From the management and staff of



Century Insurance
A TanHoldings Company

1st Floor JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan • Tel.: 670-234-0609 • Fax: 670-234-1845

Best Wishes and Good Luck!

Sending our heartfelt best wishes to all the incredible Team Marianas athletes as they compete in the 10th Micronesian Games! Your dedication, talent, and sportsmanship inspire us all. Embrace the challenge, give it your all, and let your passion shine bright. Good luck to each and every one of you - may your efforts be rewarded with success and joy! Go for greatness!

From your friends at D&Q



PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE 10TH MICRONESIAN GAMES




D&Q
International Distributors
A TanHoldings Company



D&Q Saipan PO Box 504462, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel (670) 322-2706



LEIGH GASES
The CNMI National Wrestling Team for the 2024 Micronesian Games, from right, team manager Jason Tarkong, wrestlers James Attao Greene Jr., Ryan Babauta, and Aden Attao (who's on island for vacation and is not on the team), and coach Rick Bauer.

TEAM
From page 21

should've been flagbearer when we went to the Solomons for the Pacific Games. You heard all of that stuff they said about the medals and competitions she's won? Nobody else here can match her record. She's been there internationally, so I think it's beyond time."

Labausa's weightlifting achievements include three gold medals in the 2018 Micronesian Games, three silver medals in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games, silver in the 2022

Oceania Champs, gold in the 2023 Guam National Championships, gold in the 2023 Marianas Cup, and recently, a bronze medal in the 2024 Oceania Championships.

For Cristobal, he recently won bronze in the 2024 Oceania Senior, Junior, and Youth Championships, bronze in the 2023 Pacific Games, silver in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games, gold in the Crestview Bar Slam, among others.

While Riella won bronze in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games and silver in the 2nd Marianas Cup in 2021.

The weightlifting compe-

tion in the Games is set on Monday, June 17, and Tuesday, June 18.

Wrestling

The NMI wrestling team is set for the 2024 Micronesian Games in Majuro, Marshall Islands—and despite a small delegation and a long hiatus of the sport in the islands, their coach said the athletes are up for the challenge and are going to represent the NMI well.

The team is made up of wrestlers Ryan Babauta and mainland fly-in James Attao Greene Jr., with head coach Rick Bauer and team manager Jason Tarkong.



LEIGH GASES
The CNMI National Weightlifting Team for the 2024 Micronesian Games, from left, Riella Ichio, Antonette Labausa, Kaya Rasa, coach John Davis, Jaden Andrew, Lucio Eugenio, and Joseph Pangelinan. Not pictured is Leowell Cristobal.

Frank "The Crank" Camacho and Aden Attao were supposed to compete as well, but due to their own reasons, they won't be able to make it. However, Bauer said of Babauta and Greene, "We're anticipating really good things and are excited for the challenge."

The Micronesian Games is hosting freestyle, Greco-Roman, and beach wrestling and competition will take place on June 23 and 24.

The last time the NMI competed in wrestling was in the 2006 Micronesian Games when they won five of 42 medals.

According to Bauer, Babauta has wrestled for the

CNMI before and has earned multiple medals. Greene, who is from Idaho, is still in high school but was seeded No. 3 in Idaho's 2024 state tournament and shows promise to hit the podium.

With how their training is going, Bauer said that Babauta is training with him and a few other Northern Marianas Wrestling Federation members. "We are currently using the beach at Crowne Plaza for beach wrestling and the mats at Trench Tech for freestyle and Greco-Roman until we can acquire funding to purchase true wrestling mats," said

Bauer in an interview.

While for Greene, Bauer said, he is just coming off of his latest season, so he's been training consistently on the mat, so "we're looking for good things from him across all three styles."

As for Bauer's expectations of the wrestlers, he said for Greene, "I think freestyle and Greco he's really familiar with. The beach style is going to be new for him but again, with his experience, and he's training, he'll be able to transition out on the beach. So, I'm looking for big things from him." (Saipan Tribune)





PROUD SPONSORS OF TEAM MARIANAS

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



BOG announces title sponsorship with Guam Basketball Confederation

Also with Guam National Basketball Team

HAGATÑA, Guam—Bank of Guam is proud to confirm its continued partnership with the Guam Basketball Confederation, as the title sponsor for the Bank of Guam Men's National Basketball Team.

As part of the partnership, Bank of Guam will continue to invest in Team Guam and efforts to support sports development and success on both local and international stages. The partnership includes a total investment in basketball on all levels including supporting leagues for youth, seniors and businesses along with funding team uniforms, equipment, training opportunities, and community programs—ensuring Team Guam is prepared and have the tools to succeed.

“We have seen the impact that team sports, especially basketball, can make in our communities. This sponsorship signifies so much more than our support of Guam Basketball, it’s an investment in our youth and our People. We are honored to continue our partnership with the Guam Basketball Confederation and most of all proud of Team Guam for continuing to represent our island at its best!” said Bank of Guam president and chief executive officer Joaquin P. L.G. Cook.

“We thank Bank of Guam for their continuous support over the years. Their sponsorship goes beyond being a sports fan, it serves as inspiration for our athletes as they proudly represent our island

on the international stage. We truly appreciate Bank of Guam’s dedication to empowering our sports community, and we’re honored to have them by our side,” said Guam Basketball Confederation head coach EJ Calvo.

Recognized as the best team in the Pacific, the Bank of Guam Men’s National Basketball Team continues to rise in the global rankings, currently holding the impressive position of No. 72 out

of 160 teams in the world according to the latest FIBA rankings. The current rank reflects a climb of 4 points.

The sponsorship agreement includes exclusive naming rights for the Guam National Basketball Teams. Additionally, the partnership extends to various community initiatives and events organized by the Guam Basketball Confederation, such as the National Basketball Training Center, youth

basketball camps, Micronesia Coaching Clinic in cooperation with FIBA, and national games including matchups against Japan and China. (PR)



BOG

From left, Bank of Guam president and chief executive officer Joaquin P. L.G. Cook, Bank of Guam Men's National Basketball Team players Aljurrell Grape and Mark Johnson, and Bank of Guam senior vice president and chief experience officer Lesley Leon Guerrero.

Name: Pedro Gabriel Ortiz Perez
Address: P.O. Box 505948
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 788-5837
Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS


In Re the Matter of the Petition for the Appointment of General Guardianship for:] FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0228
C.N.G.O.] NOTICE OF HEARING
Minor Child(ren)]
By:]
Pedro Gabriel Ortiz Perez]
Petitioner(s)]

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on August 19, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.


Dates this 7th day of June, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS
AUTHORITY (CPA)**
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com



NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING


The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors hereby gives notice that a special meeting is being called on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) Classroom at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above referenced meeting:

AGENDA


- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS:**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**
- III. SPECIAL MEETING ITEM(S):**
 1. Resolution to Authorize Expenditure of Airport Divert Funds from Air Stone Castle Investment Account; to Authorize Redemption of Airport's 1998 Senior Bonds; and to Adopt Emergency Regulation
- IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- V. MISCELLANEOUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- VI. ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom.
Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

ANTONIO B. CABRERA
Acting Chairman, Board of Directors



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
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Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com



**Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
“Car Rental Concessions”
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
for: CPA-RFP-004-24**

- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-01
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-02
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-03
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-04
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-05
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-06

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of six (6) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport (“Car Rental Concession”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.


The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-004-24 is **May 20, 2024**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2024**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.


The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
NAME OF EMPLOYER: JMSI Saipan, LLC
THE POSITION: Electrical Engineer
NO. OF VACANCIES: 1
JOB SITE: Warehouse #5B, Industrial Center, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
JOB DESCRIPTION: (1) Collaborate with the senior engineers and supervisors to create more efficient methods and maintain profitability; (2) Prepare technical drawings, specifications of electrical systems, or topographical maps to ensure that installation and operations conform to standards and customer requirements; (3) Direct or coordinate installation, maintenance, support, documentation or testing activities relating to electrical systems and equipment to ensure compliance with specifications, codes, and customer requirements; (4) Create the framework use to develop and monitor project metrics and manage the collection of project data; (5) Formulate realistic parameters for each project, including design elements and implementation procedures; (6) Establish the methods by which all field tests are administered and develop various ways to monitor the quality of those tests; (7) Review plans and work implementations as per standard codes; (8) In charge in material take off for project implementation; (9) Prepare specification for purchases of materials and equipment, material request and register, review of material and drawings submittals; (10) Prepare drawing registers, project schedule, and manpower forecasts; (11) Prepare daily, weekly, and monthly progress reports; (12) Prepare estimates, bid documents, and technical submittals; and (13) Prepare show drawings using AutoCAD.
MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering.
EXPERIENCE: Must have at least 60 months of relevant work experience in Electrical Engineering.
HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail comprehensive Resume and supporting credentials to:
MARVIN SMITH or ALAN LEBRIA
JMSI SAIPAN, LLC
Office Address: Warehouse #5B Industrial Center, Chalan Kiya
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: PMB 1014, Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: jmsi.saipan705@gmail.com
Telephone Number: Tel. 1 (670) 234-5670



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
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Website: www.cnmiports.com



**Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport
“Car Rental Concessions”
Request for Proposals
for: CPA-RFP-006-24**

CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-11
CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-12
CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-13

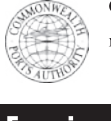
The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport (“Car Rental Concession”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-006-24 is **May 20, 2024**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.


Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2024**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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**Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport
“Car Rental Concessions”
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
for: CPA-RFP-005-24**

CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-07
CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-08
CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-09
CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-10

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of four (4) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport (“Car Rental Concession”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-005-24 is **May 20, 2024**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

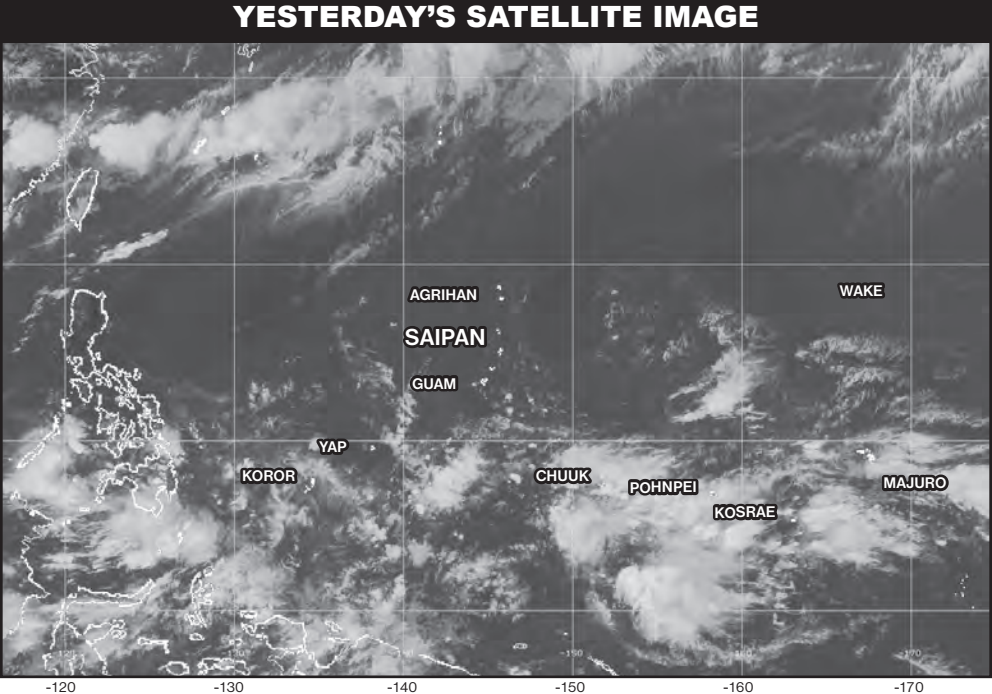
Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2024**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
87°	78°	87°	79°	87°	77°	87°	78°	88°	78°



PICTURE TIME: 11:16 AM THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Showers and cloud cover have decreased over Guam. Only isolated showers are associated with the weakening trough approaching the islands. Therefore, forecast was updated to partly cloudy skies and isolated showers.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°	
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Majuro	Cloudy	86° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Tuesday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:08 AM	12:14 PM
Saturday	-	12:40 AM	1:00 PM
Sunday	-	1:13 AM	1:45 PM
Monday	-	1:46 AM	2:33 PM
Tuesday	-	2:22 AM	3:22 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Thunderstorms	61° / 52°	
Beijing	Fair	97° / 70°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°	
Honolulu	Showers	85° / 74°	
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 54°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	73° / 61°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	97° / 82°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 46°	
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
New York	Clear	75° / 63°	
Osaka	Fair	86° / 71°	
Paris	Showers	77° / 59°	
Busan	Sunny	84° / 67°	
Rome	Sunny	79° / 57°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	94° / 70°	
San Francisco	Sunny	67° / 54°	
Seoul	Sunny	90° / 64°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 71°	
Washington, DC	Clear	82° / 61°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:07 AM	High Tide	1.93	
8:27 AM	Low Tide	1.16	
12:51 PM	High Tide	1.49	
7:30 PM	Low Tide	0.66	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2024				
DEPARTURES				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				
HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5	

ARRIVALS				
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily	
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7	
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily	
UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7	
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau	
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5	
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam	
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam	
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam	
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily	
INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN				
7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily	
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily	
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily	
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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GRMC recognizes Buentipo as 2024 DAISY Award honoree



GRMC

Guam Regional Medical City 2024 DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System) Award honoree Betty Ann Buentipo, front, poses with the other GRMC registered nurses nominated for the 2024 DAISY Award.

DEDEDO, Guam—Guam Regional Medical City proudly honored Betty Ann Buentipo as the recipient of the 2024 DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System) Award during its fourth annual ceremony held at the Dusit Thani Guam Resort last May 10. The DAISY Award acknowledges exceptional nurses who have made a profound impact on their patients' lives. This year's award was presented to Betty Ann Buentipo, a dedicated registered nurse in the Emergency Department.

The DAISY Awards ceremony, hosted by Shanice Poe from Hit Radio 100, was attended by nominees, guests, GRMC's executive team, clinical and non-clinical staff, and esteemed judges, including Speaker Therese Terlaje, Guam Board of Nurse examiner Zennia C. Pecina, GRMC chief nursing officer Jennifer Cruz, and 2023 Daisy Award honoree Chloe Mortes.

Buentipo's selection as the honoree was the result of voting by her colleagues, patients, their families, and the judging panel. Judges made their decision based solely on the nominees' stories. Buentipo's exceptional dedication touched the lives of three individuals

who nominated her, praising her compassionate care and unwavering commitment.

A. Singeo and family shared, "On behalf of my family and I, we would like to take this moment to nominate nurse Betty Ann for this prestigious Daisy Award. She always treated her patients as if they were her own family, going the extra mile to provide comfort, support, and personalized care. Her ability to wear her heart on her sleeve and make patients feel like they were in trusted hands is truly commendable."

J. Saggao shared, "Betty Ann stands out for her exceptional compassion, unwavering attention to patients' and families' needs, integrity in her straightforward approach, and profound understanding of medical necessities."

The Michael family finally adds, "But Nurse Betty didn't just see her as another patient; she treated her like a cherished friend she had known for years. Every day, she made it her mission to check on my aunt and ensure she was comfortable, going above and beyond her job duties. To nurse Betty, our family's gratitude knows no bounds. You were not just doing a job; you were living a calling, touching lives with

your compassion and making your patient feel like they mattered. Thank you for being my aunt's guardian angel and for

reminding her that even in the toughest times, there are still caring souls like you who make a difference in the world."

Buentipo began her career at GRMC's Emergency Department in August 2015. Over the past eight years and nine months, she has held various positions, including ED manager, director of Quality, Patient Safety & Infection Prevention, and currently serves as house supervisor/registered nurse.

During her opening speech, GRMC chief nursing officer Jennifer Cruz touched upon the significance and esteem associated with the DAISY Awards. She remarked, "Nursing tran-

sends mere profession; it's a calling—a vocation to serve and support those in need. The nurses being honored today have exemplified this through their unwavering dedication to their patients, their willingness to go above and beyond, and their compassionate approach to healthcare."

GRMC CEO Dr. Alexander "Beau" Wielaard extended his appreciation and congratulations to all nominees and this year's recipient. He stated, "Our nurses form the steadfast foundation of our patient care services. Aligning with the theme of this year's National Nurses Week, Nurses Make

the Difference, you have truly made an impactful difference. I take pride in collaborating with individuals like you—dedicated and committed to fulfilling our promise of caring for the communities we serve."

As the 2024 DAISY Award recipient, Buentipo received several honors, including a certificate, a DAISY Award pin, a hand-carved serpentine stone from Zimbabwe, a Spotlight feature on the DAISY website and GRMC's social media, eligibility for reduced tuition at the Chamberlain University College of Nursing, and more. Buentipo concluded the ceremony by cutting a gigantic cinnamon bun cake, specially prepared by the Dusit Thani Guam Resort staff. (PR)

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB24-BECQ/TIN-42400101

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 03, 2024 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR BECQ TINIAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice@dof.gov.mp/vss>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BUILDING NO. 1301, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5. SECTION 8652 (A-G)

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD V. SALAS
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP24-GOV/OGM-42400110

SUBMISSION DATE: July 12, 2024 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

**"2023 Energizing Insular Communities
48K Solar Installation for the
Tinian Public Library"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL AT (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BUILDING NO. 1301, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE TO MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR. THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARINGHOUSE, STATE ADMINISTRATOR via email at epi.cabrera@gov.mp.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Epiphanio E. Cabrera, Jr.
STATE ADMINISTRATOR

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas, Jr.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM • WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.CNMPORTS.COM](https://www.cnmports.com)

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-011-24
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 28, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

**"PROVIDE AND INSTALL ONE (1) BRAND COMMERCIAL
AIR-CONDITIONING UNIT AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/
SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"**

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING MAY 28, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "PROVIDE AND INSTALL ONE BRAND NEW COMMERCIAL A/C UNIT (IFB-011-24)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., JUNE 28, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

WENDI PRATER
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM • WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.CNMPORTS.COM](https://www.cnmports.com)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-008-24
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 28, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

**"SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF AUTOMOTIVE
DIESEL OIL AND JET A1 FUEL"**

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING MAY 28, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE \$100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF AUTOMOTIVE DIESEL OIL AND JET A1 FUEL (RFP-008-24)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., JUNE 28, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

WENDI PRATER
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM • WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.CNMPORTS.COM](https://www.cnmports.com)

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-010-24
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 28, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

**"AIRCONDITIONING PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE
SERVICE AND REPAIRS BENJAMIN TAISACAN
MANGLONA, ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"**

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING MAY 28, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "AIRCONDITIONING PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRS/BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA, ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (IFB-010-24)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., JUNE 28, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

WENDI PRATER
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____



Federal contractor in need of the following positions for project located in Tinian.

Positions Available:

- Heavy Equipment Operator
- Loader - Excavator
- Dump Truck Driver
- Crane Operator
- Fuel Truck Driver
- Telehandler Operator
- Sanitation Truck Operator
- Electrician Journeyman
- Plumber Journeyman

Lodging, food, airfare included two-to-three-month initial assignment with long term potential.

*Must be eligible to work.

Pay rate will be \$14/hr to \$20/hr based on experience.
6 day - 10hr/day work week.

All qualifed applicants, please call
(670) 789-6632 or (671) 777-3710.

Business

Chamber hosts ribbon cutting to welcome new members

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce proudly held its first ribbon cutting ceremony to welcome two new and returning members, Younis Arts Studios, Inc. and Tupu Cane Juice, into the Chamber membership. This ceremony marks a significant effort to embrace new members and highlight their unique establishments.

The ceremony, a first of its kind for the Chamber, was designed to foster a sense of community and support among local businesses. By officially welcoming Younis Arts Studios, Inc. and Tupu Cane Juice, the Chamber aims to increase their visibility and encourage patronage from both residents and visitors.

“We are thrilled to welcome Younis Arts Studios, Inc. and Tupu Cane Juice to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce familia,” said Kimm Camacho, executive director of the Chamber. “This ribbon cutting ceremony symbolizes our commitment to supporting new and existing businesses and helping them thrive in our community. We look forward to seeing their growth and success as well as supporting it.”

Younis Arts Studios, Inc. is a returning Chamber member and is known for its exceptional contributions to the printing community, offering a diverse range of artistic services and products, they are Micronesia’s oldest newspaper since 1972, owned and operated by Amier Younis. Younis’ late father, Abed Younis served as Chamber president and added value to our organization during his term. Tupu Cane Juice, known for its delicious, refreshing, and unique cane juice, brings a new flavor to the local market. They have sugar cane farms produced here on Saipan and in Rota, adding a local touch to their business, owned and operated by Cameron Atalig.



Amier Younis, center, owner and operator of Younis Art Studio along with his team join the Saipan Chamber of Commerce leadership for ceremonial ribbon cutting as new Chamber member.



Cameron Atalig, center, owner and operator of Tupu Cane Juice along with his team join Saipan Chamber of Commerce leadership in ceremonial ribbon cutting as new Chamber member.

The Chamber continues to strive towards creating opportunities and providing a platform for businesses to network, grow, and succeed. This ribbon cutting ceremony is just one of many initiatives planned to support local businesses.

For more information about the Chamber and its initiatives, please visit www.saipanchamber.com or contact at (670) 234-7150.

The Chamber is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower our enterprises as a resource, advocate, and connector for Saipan’s private sector. Its vision is to create an island where businesses, families, and communities succeed as one. For more information or to learn how to become a Chamber member, visit online at www.saipanchamber.com, call 234-7150, or visit the 2nd Floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (Suite 201-A). (PR)

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: P&P Elevator Co.
THE POSITION: Information Technology (IT) Specialist
JOB DESCRIPTION: Install software programs for elevator and escalator; Responsible for maintenance and backup of internal development servers; Diagnose and resolve problems from software bugs to hardware malfunctions; Able to set up LAN and WAN network with emphasis on other operational functions of storing & retrieving system data; Integration of the CCTV system or any security cameras with the elevator; Monitor functioning of equipment and make necessary modifications to ensure system operates in conformance with specifications; Provide technical assistance to co-worker concerning the use printer & computer and system; Recommend improvements; Provide technical assistance to other business activities of the company, i.e., securing quotations on-line. Costing of parts, supplies and inventories, etc.; and officer suggestions for the company's possible upgrades and changes with the IT field; Perform other duties as may be assigned by management.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology.
EXPERIENCE: Must have at least twenty-four (24) months of relevant work experience as an information Technology Specialist
JOB SITE: Lot No. 1826-2, Chalan Laulau Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail comprehensive professional resume, with supporting credentials, and application letter to:

CHUL PARK, PRESIDENT, P&P ELEVATOR CO.
Office Address: Lot No. 1826-2, Chalan Laulau Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: PMB 422, P.O. Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950
Email: ppelevator123@gmail.com | Tel. No.: Tel. 1(670) 989-0608

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES • CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB24-DLNR/DFW-42400105

SUBMISSION DATE: July 09, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Transportation and Deployment for the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Fisheries Research Section”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BUILDING NO. 1301, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MS. KEENA C. LEON GUERRERO AT (670)322-6008 OR VIA EMAIL AT KLEONGUERRERO.DFW@GMAIL.COM.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROSEMARY C. CAMACHO
ACTING DIRECTOR, DFW

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS, JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS




NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **Augustine Duenas Hernandez**, is no longer connected with Marianas Insurance Company, Ltd. as of May 31, 2024.

Any transaction or agreement(s) entered into by him on behalf of Marianas Insurance Company, Ltd. after the above-mentioned date will not be honored by the said company.

Management of MIC



PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP24-GOV-42400111

SUBMISSION DATE: July 29, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL AT (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BUILDING NO. 1301, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE DIRECTED TO MRS. TRACY B. NORITA, AT THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE OFFICE, VIA EMAIL AT GHLIRFP@DOF.GOV.MP.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Tracy B. Norita
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas, Jr.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Life & Style

Chestnut, Kobayashi to compete in Netflix competition

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After organizers for Nathan’s Famous Fourth of July hot dog-eating contest said Joey Chestnut wouldn’t compete this year because of a deal with a rival brand, Netflix swiftly announced a new hot dog-eating competition that will feature Chestnut and his “fiercest rival.”

Chestnut, a 16-time hot dog-eating champion, will face off with his frequent Nathan’s competitor, Takeru Kobayashi, in a live Netflix special on Sept. 2, the streamer announced Wednesday.

The contest, titled “Chestnut vs. Kobayashi: Unfinished Beef,” will feature the two chowing down on all-beef hot dogs, likely in a nod to reports that Chestnut’s rival brand deal is with Impossible Foods, which makes plant-based hot dogs.

Major League Eating, the organization that oversees the Nathan’s contest, announced Tuesday that Chestnut’s deal was an “exclusivity” issue,



Joey Chestnut, defending champion of the Nathan’s Famous Fourth of July hot dog eating contest, left, works to outpace former champion Takeru Kobayashi, right, July 4, 2009, in New York.

saying that it was his decision to step back from the competition he has participated in since 2005. “We love him. The fans love him,” said George Shea, a Major League Eating event organizer, adding: “He made the choice.”

Chestnut disputed that he

made the choice, saying on the social platform X that Nathan’s and Major League Eating made the decision, adding that it would “deprive fans of the holiday’s usual joy and entertainment.”

He also wrote that fans could “rest assured” that they

would see him eat again soon, adding: “STAY HUNGRY!”

Impossible Foods has not confirmed a formal relationship with Chestnut, but he said in a statement on Tuesday they support his choice to compete in any competition, adding “Meat eaters

shouldn’t have to be exclusive to just one wiener.”

Following Netflix’s announcement, Shea said the streamer was “trying to recreate the Nathan’s contest to some extent and you just can’t do that.”

“Imitation is the best form of flattery,” he added.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams joined the conversation via X on Wednesday, urging Nathan’s and Major League Eating to “stop be-

ing such weenies.” “It would be ‘impossible’ to have this year’s Nathan’s Famous International Hot Dog Eating Contest without Joey Chestnut,” he wrote. “Let’s find a way to squash this beef and bring back the champ for another 4th of July at Coney Island!”

In a Netflix news release announcing the competition, Chestnut said he was eager bring the competition to the streaming service.

Federal judge who presided over R. Kelly trial dead at 87 after battling lung cancer

U.S. District Judge Harry Leinenweber, who presided over singer R. Kelly’s trial on child sex abuse charges, has died. He was 87.

Leinenweber died Tuesday evening, the eastern division of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois said in a statement. The Chicago Sun-Times reported that Leinenweber had been diagnosed with lung cancer earlier this year and died at the Florida home he shared with his wife.

retirement, in 2002 but continued to work.

He presided over Kelly’s trial in 2022. Prosecutors accused the Grammy Award-winning singer of producing sexually explicit videos of children and enticing girls for sex. The trial went on for a month before jurors ultimately convicted Kelly of six of 13 counts against him.

The verdict came months after a federal judge in New York sentenced Kelly to 30 years in prison in June for racketeering and sex trafficking. Leinenweber sentenced the singer to 20 years in prison in the Illinois case.

“Judge Harry D. Leinenweber was a friend, mentor and model jurist,” Northern District of Illinois Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer said in the statement. “My colleagues and I are deeply saddened by Judge Leinenweber’s passing. We hope for comfort and peace for his family. We thank his family for sharing him with us for over 39 years.”

President Ronald Reagan nominated Leinenweber, a former state lawmaker, to the bench in 1985. He took senior status, a form of semi-

Kelly attorney Jennifer Bonojean wrote in an email that she loved trying cases in front of Leinenweber.

“He allowed attorneys to do their jobs and never put his thumb on the scales of justice,” she wrote. “He was an honorable judge and an honorable man. The judiciary needs more judges like him. He will be missed by attorneys from all sides of the aisle.” (AP)

DeSantis appointees bury hatchet with Disney by approving new development deal

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Gov. Ron DeSantis’ appointees on Wednesday gave final approval to an agreement that buries the hatchet between Disney and the governing district for Walt Disney World, which the Florida governor took over after the company two years ago publicly opposed a state law critics dubbed “Don’t Say Gay.”

The five DeSantis-appointed board members to the Central Florida Tourism Oversight District unanimously voted to approve a 15-year development

deal in which the district committed to making infrastructure improvements in exchange for Disney investing up to \$17 billion into Disney World over the next two decades.

The agreement followed a detente in March in which both sides agreed to stop litigating each other in state court and work towards negotiating a new development agreement and a new comprehensive plan no later than next year. The district provides municipal services such as firefight-

ing, planning and mosquito control, among other things, and was controlled by Disney supporters before the takeover by the DeSantis appointees.

District board member Brian Aungst said at Wednesday night’s board meeting that the agreement provides a lasting and stable framework for Disney and the board to work together.

“This is the day we all have been looking forward to,” Aungst said. “I was always extremely optimistic and knew

we would get here because it was the right outcome.”

Under the deal, Disney will be required to donate up to 100 acres (40 hectares) of Disney World’s 24,000 acres (9,700 hectares) for the construction of infrastructure projects controlled by the district. The company also will need to award at least half of its construction projects to companies based in Florida and spend at least \$10 million on affordable housing for central Florida.

Aging couple contemplates long-distance relocation

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are contemplating moving across the country to be near our daughters. We have lived in our home for 45 years. We are both active and in very good health, but unlike many of our friends, we have no relatives anywhere near us.

We have friends and neighbors who are like family. We are also active in our church and community. Basically, our whole life is here. But we are very close to both of our daughters. We visit two to three times a year and Facetime often. They would be delighted to have us closer.

While we want to be more involved in their lives (we have four grandchildren), we always said the one of us left would be the one to move. However, as we age, we are thinking we might need to be near them. It has been hard watching all our friends be involved with their families, and we know we have missed a lot of seeing our grandkids growing up. We would welcome any wisdom from you as we try to make this difficult decision.

UNDECIDED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR UNDECIDED: Not every move of the kind you describe is successful. I have heard from many readers expressing that when they arrived in the new community, they discovered that the grandchildren were living full lives

with their contemporaries, and the adult children were busy managing their own lives and couldn’t give them the attention they had envisioned.

You have lived happily as part of your community for nearly half a century. Because you feel you are missing out on your grandchildren’s lives, visit them a little more often. But do not expect to suddenly become the center of their and their parents’ lives or you risk sacrificing the happy life you currently enjoy and becoming isolated and disappointed.

A final thought: Before making a hard-and-fast decision about this life-changing scenario, consider RENTING an apartment in the new community for a year so you can see how well you would integrate into it before selling your home. It could save you a world of regret.

DEAR ABBY: I’ve been dating a divorced man, “Mitch,” for nine years. We’ve been living together for the last two. He has a daughter and a grandson. Recently, while I was out of town for a week, he participated in the annual “family photo shoot” with his arm around his ex-wife as if they were one big happy family.

I feel betrayed by Mitch and his daughter. His excuse is that the photographer was unaware of the family history. The ex recently dumped the man she cheated on Mitch with, so her intentions might be questionable. Should I ask him to move out?

IN OR OUT OF THE PICTURE

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR IN OR OUT: Do NOT ask your boyfriend of nine years to move out based on a photo that was taken one weekend while you were out of town! However, DO examine why, after nine years, the two of you haven’t tied the knot, and how one photoshoot has made you feel so threatened. Then talk to him about it.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

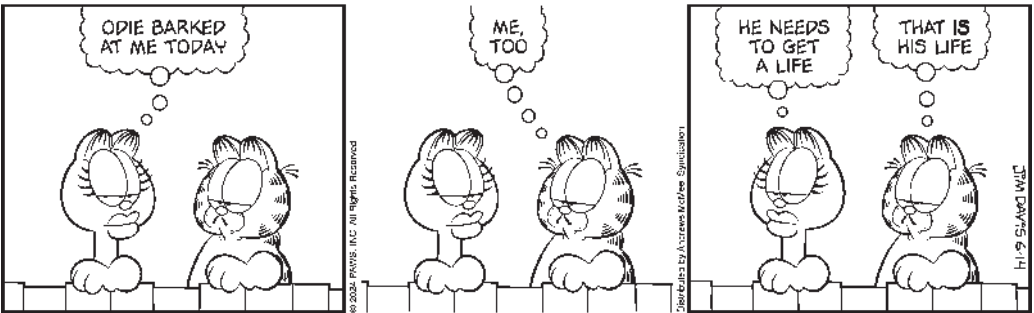
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



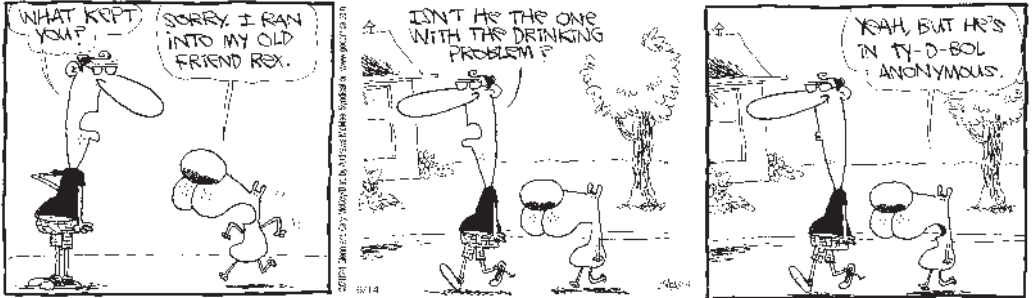
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Abysmal
4 Country singer
8 Glitzy rock genre
12 Hollywood's Thurman
13 Russian river
14 Costa —
15 Networks of agents
17 Lawman Wyatt
18 Memory unit
19 Chair designer
20 "But of course!"
22 Pvt.'s superiors
24 X-ray doses
25 Bashful folks
29 Bikini top
30 Prince William's mom
31 — Jima
32 Ceiling window
34 Soon, poetically
35 Hostels

36 Long journeys
37 Bee bite
40 Hammer part
41 Croquet site
42 Furtive cackle
46 Writer Wiesel
47 Singer/actor
48 Afternoon social
49 Contradict
50 Ice and Bronze
51 Tofu source

2 Pump up the volume
3 Song from
4 Business wear
5 "Rule, Britannia!"
6 Tatter
7 Gore and Green
8 — spoon
9 Actor
10 Farmland unit
11 Atlas pages
16 Loaves for Reuben sandwiches
19 Jazz singer
20 Spheres
21 "Listen!"
22 Persian bigwigs
23 "Peer —"
25 Billboard
26 Pesto ingredients
27 Furry sci-fi critter
28 Male offspring
30 Little dent
33 "Ozark" actress
34 Vicinity
36 Goes public
37 Rosebud, to Kane
38 Story
39 Victor's cry
40 Combustible heap
42 Govt. lender for a start-up
43 Schlep
44 Logical leader?
45 Palomino's chow

Solution time: 25 mins.

DEEP GAH PELE
BARA RNA AYES
AVID III REST
GENTLE RAMS
NASAL QUI SHI
ELHI ANT CHEF
ADD ADD EATAT
LAWNCHAIRS
BATE PASTED
LOON REO AMMO
GUAC ELD VATN
ARTY DIS ANTE

Yesterday's answer 6-14

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lucy Hale, 35; Kevin McHale, 36; Diablo Cody, 46; Boy George, 63.

Happy Birthday: Fact-checking is necessary if you want to avoid mistakes. Be ready, willing and able to do the work yourself. Relying on anyone will leave you struggling to right a wrong. Put your energy where it counts and use intelligence, intuition and common sense to ensure you ward off temptation and anyone trying to beat you at your own game. Change what's necessary. Take action quickly if someone gets in your way. Your numbers are 6, 14, 21, 23, 34, 42, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be open and receptive toward others and their offers. Communicating and following up are your best routes to getting what you want. Don't hesitate to ask questions or make suggestions, but don't expect complete transparency. Being observant will help you determine where you stand and what's possible. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Modification is your friend. If you don't like something, change it. Time is precious, and the longer you mull over what to do, the less time you can spend enjoying and living in the moment. Stand up for what you want and make it happen. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Temptation will be challenging to resist. It's OK to have fun, but set boundaries and surround yourself with trusted friends. Expect someone to try to convince you of something that isn't right or best for you. Your intelligence is crucial in making decisions. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Channel your energy into creativity, home, family and striving to reach your goals. Refuse to

let outsiders cause self-doubt. Fact-check all information you receive before passing it along or relying on it to help you progress. Use your personal space creatively. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Adjust to your surroundings and circumstances to avoid stress and emotional interference. Having a clear headspace will help you get things done on time and ward off disagreements with anyone trying to push you in a direction that doesn't suit your needs. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make positive adjustments. Take charge and correct what is no longer working for you. Instead of criticizing or trying to change others, look inward and consider what you can do to make your life flow better. Change is your responsibility. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put energy and thought into learning, improving your lifestyle and routine, and eliminating dead weight. A fresh start will impact what you do and encourage you to embrace life courageously. Everything will fall into place. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let go of people, pastimes and subscriptions costing you too much financially or emotionally. Put more thought into who and what puts a smile on your face, and gravitate in that direction. Take responsibility for your happiness. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Honesty is the best policy, but don't expect others to be honest regarding what they want or their intentions. It's up to you to be bold and clarify what you are willing to contribute and where you draw the line. Don't neglect yourself. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep moving. Idle time will lead to trouble. Learn all you can before starting something new. Preparation is vital to making an impression on someone of interest. Opportunity is apparent if you remain calm, helpful and forgiving. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Let others be and do what they want. Put yourself first and implement alterations that make you feel good about yourself and your direction. Refuse to fall into someone else's agenda when what's essential is developing a routine that suits your needs. Romance is favored. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be careful when dealing with domestic matters, reform or bureaucratic issues. An opportunity to talk to an expert will help clarify what's possible. Finding solutions will take more thought and ingenuity to improve your lifestyle and relationships. ***

Birthday Baby: You are complicated, empathetic and insightful. You are gregarious and distracting.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

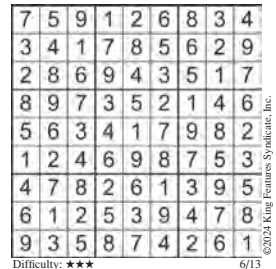
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★★★★ 6/14
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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

NATURAL HABITATS Solution: 7 letters



©2014 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 6/14
Alpine, Arctic, Cactus, Cave, Chain, Climate, Coral, Deer, Delta, Desert, Diverse, Ecosystems, Everglades, Fauna, Forests, Fynbos, Grassland, Ground, Kelp, Lake, Marshes, Migratory, Mist, Mountains, Oceans, Organisms, Prairies, Reef, Rivers, Sand, Savanna, Seamount, Soiled, Species, Springs, Steppes, Swamp, Tundra, Underwater, Wild, Wooded, Woodland
Yesterday's Answer: BBQ Sauce
The NEW TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION #1 can be purchased on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367.)

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Tatum, Brown help Celtics hold off huge Dallas rally for 3-0 lead



DALLAS (AP)—Jayson Tatum and Jaylen

Brown shared a long hug after helping Boston avoid the biggest collapse in an NBA Finals game since at least 1997.

The reward? The Celtics stars are on the brink of joining the litany of big-name predecessors to put a banner above the parquet floor back home.

Tatum scored 31 points, Brown had 30 and the Celtics held off a furious Dallas rally to move to the verge of a record 18th championship with a 106-99 victory over the Mavericks on Wednesday night for a 3-0 lead.

Brown finished with eight rebounds and eight assists as the Celtics extended their franchise record with a 10th consecutive playoff victory and moved to 7-0 on the road this postseason. They can win the series and break a tie with the Lakers for most NBA championships with a victory Friday in Dallas.

And Boston can forget about nearly blowing a 21-point lead with 11 minutes to go.

"Not really trying to look too much into it," Tatum said. "The game of basketball is about runs. It's never going to go like you expected. If you want to be a champion, you have to be resilient in those situations, and we did that tonight."

Boston also improved to 10-1 in these playoffs without Kristaps Porzingis after the 7-foot-2 Latvian was ruled out



Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) and guard Jrue Holiday react as Dallas Mavericks guard Kyrie Irving (11) and forward P.J. Washington walk off away after the Celtics won 109-66 in Game 3 of the NBA basketball finals, Wednesday, June 12, 2024, in Dallas.

before the game because of a rare tendon injury in his lower left leg sustained in Game 2.

The status of Porzingis for the rest of the series appears in doubt, but it might not matter. None of the previous 156 teams to face a 3-0 deficit has rallied to win an NBA playoff series.

The Mavs almost pulled off a crazy comeback to avoid the big hole — 13 years after Dallas had the biggest fourth-quarter rally in the play-by-play era of the NBA Finals

(since 1997) when a 15-point comeback in Game 2 started its run to the franchise's only title against Miami.

Boston led 91-70 at the end of a 20-5 run early in the fourth quarter before Dallas answered with a 22-2 spurt to get within a point with 3 1/2 minutes remaining.

Problem was, Luka Doncic picked up his sixth foul with 4:12 remaining when a challenge was unsuccessful before Kyrie Irving, who scored 35 points, hit a jumper to get Dal-

las within one.

Tatum and Brown saved the Celtics from there, with some help from Derrick White, who scored 16. Those three combined for the remaining 13 Boston points to get the Celtics within a victory of their first title since 2008, and just the second since 1986.

The Celtics have led 3-0 in the NBA Finals only once, finishing off the Lakers in a sweep in 1959.

The first step for Dallas is trying to avoid getting swept

in a seven-game series for just the second time in franchise history.

"We just got to make history," rookie Mavs center Dereck Lively II said. "We got to go out there and we just got to play like our lives are on the line."

In a game that seemed over early in the fourth, the score was stuck on 93-90 for more than three minutes. That included when Doncic was called for a blocking foul on a driving Brown.

The Mavs had nothing to lose with the challenge, since it meant trying to save their superstar from disqualification.

Without Doncic, P.J. Washington Jr., Irving and Tim Hardaway Jr. each missed a 3-pointer in the final minute as Irving's personal losing streak against his former team reached 13 games.

"We had a good chance," Doncic said. "We were close. Just didn't get it. I wish I was out there."

An energized Dallas crowd was ready for its first finals game in 13 years, with Super Bowl-winning quarterback and Mavs fan Patrick Mahomes of the Kansas City Chiefs frequently getting out of his seat near midcourt.

The Mavs used the needed boost coming off two losses in Boston, taking their biggest lead of the series while running out to a 22-9 lead. Doncic and Irving drove for buckets while also hitting a 3 apiece.

The Celtics answered with

a 21-9 finish to the first quarter. Sam Hauser hit two of his first-half 3s—on three attempts—to help wrap up a run that started with four points from Brown and a 3 from Tatum.

Defense dominated the start of the second quarter, Boston holding a 5-2 edge nearly six minutes in before Irving and Tatum traded 3s to start a scoring burst.

"They came out swinging," Tatum said. "That was to be expected. They were at home, the crowd was behind them. We expected their first punch."

Once they withstood it, it appeared the Celtics would coast after outscoring the Mavs 35-19 in the third quarter, before the Mavs' late rally. And the answer from Tatum and Brown.

"We've been in those moments a lot," Brown said. "And we've been in those positions, and we've lost. It was great to overcome that with my brother, Jayson, and with our team. That was special."

After it was over, pockets of Celtics fans screamed with delight in a mostly empty arena, seemingly starting the celebration of the inevitable.

To everyone but the Celtics.

"You've got to understand we are just as vulnerable if not more vulnerable than they are," coach Joe Mazzulla said. "When you understand that you're vulnerable and your back's against the wall, you've got to fight. And so that's the mindset that we have to have."

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



Jerry West, who was selected to the Basketball Hall of Fame three times in a storied career as a player and executive, and whose silhouette is considered to be the basis of the NBA logo, died Wednesday morning, the Los Angeles Clippers announced.

He was 86.

West, nicknamed "Mr. Clutch" for his late-game exploits as a player, was an NBA champion who went into the Hall of Fame as a player in 1980 and again as a member of the gold medal-winning 1960 U.S. Olympic Team in 2010. He will be enshrined for a third time later this year as a contributor, and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver called West "one of the greatest executives in sports history."

"He helped build eight championship teams during his tenure in the NBA—a legacy of achievement that mirrors his on-court excellence," Silver said.

West was "the personification of basketball excellence and a friend to all who knew

Jerry West, inspiration for the NBA logo, dies at 86

him," said the Clippers, who employed him as a consultant for the last seven years. West's wife, Karen, was by his side when he died, the Clippers said.

West was an All-Star in all 14 of his NBA seasons, a 12-time All-NBA selection, part of the 1972 Los Angeles Lakers team that won a championship, an NBA Finals MVP when the Lakers lost to the Boston Celtics in 1969—the first year that award was given out, and still the only time it went to a player on the losing team—and was selected as part of the NBA's 75th anniversary team.

"He was absolutely my basketball sage: wise, loyal and so much fun," Clippers owner Steve Ballmer said. "If you were in his presence, you felt his competitiveness and his drive. He cared about everything and everyone."

West was general manager of championship teams with the Lakers, helping build the "Showtime" dynasty. He also worked in the front offices of the Memphis Grizzlies, the Golden State Warriors

and the Clippers. Among his many highlights as an executive with the Lakers: he drafted Magic Johnson and James Worthy, then brought in Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal to win more titles.

His basketball life bridged generations: West played with Elgin Baylor, whom he called "the most supportive and the greatest player of that era," and Wilt Chamberlain. Even in the final years of his life, West was considered basketball royalty. He routinely sat courtside at Summer League games in Las Vegas, often watching many games in a day while greeting long lines of players—LeBron James among them—who would approach to shake his hand.

James, on social media, offered his condolences: "Will truly miss our convos my dear friend! My thoughts and prayers goes out to your wonderful family! Forever love Jerry! Rest in Paradise my guy!"

West is 25th on the NBA's all-time scoring list. The league has never confirmed

that West was in fact the model for its logo—a player dribbling a ball, set against a red-and-blue background—but has never said otherwise, either.

"While it's never been officially declared that the logo is Jerry West," Silver said in 2021, "it sure looks a lot like him."

West is still the NBA Finals' all-time leader in total points. He played in the title series nine times with the Lakers; his teams went 1-2 against the New York Knicks, and 0-6 against the Celtics. "Those damn Celtics," he often said. West also hit one of the most famed shots in finals history, a 60-footer at the buzzer of Game 3 of the 1970 series between the Knicks and Lakers to force overtime.

Michael Jordan said he considered West "a friend and mentor—like an older brother to me."

"I valued his friendship and knowledge," Jordan said. "I always wished I could have played against him as a competitor, but the more I

came to know him, I wish I had been his teammate. I admired his basketball insights and he and I shared many similarities to how we approached the game."

A native of Chelyan, West Virginia, West was known as a tenacious player who was rarely satisfied with his performance. He grew up shooting at a makeshift outdoor basket, often out there until his fingers bled. He became the first high school player in state history to score more than 900 points in a season, averaging 32.2 points in leading East Bank High to a state title.

Basketball, he would later reveal, was his therapy.

In his 2011 memoir, "West by West: My Charmed, Tormented Life," West chronicled a lifelong battle with depression. He wrote that his childhood was devoid of love and filled with anger as a result of an abusive father.

West led West Virginia University—where he is still the all-time leader in scoring average—to the NCAA final in 1959, when the Moun-

taineers lost by one point to California.

A year after he won Olympic gold in Rome, West joined the Lakers, where he spent his entire pro playing career. He was honored as one of the league's 50 greatest players in 1996 and when the league expanded the polling to 75 players to commemorate its 75th anniversary in 2021, West was selected again.

"You know, it never ceases to amaze me the places you can go in this world chasing a bouncing ball," West said in 2019, when he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the nation's highest civilian honor—by then-President Donald Trump.

"I was a dreamer," West continued. "My family didn't have much, but we had a clear view of the Appalachian Mountains, and I'd sit alone on our front porch and wonder, 'If I ever make it to the top of that mountain, what will I see on the other side?' Well, I did make it to the other side, and my dreams have come true. I've been able to see the sides, thanks to that bouncing ball."

Austin Slater shines as the Giants beat the Astros



SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—

Austin Slater had three hits and drove in two runs to help the San Francisco Giants beat the Houston Astros 5-3 on Wednesday.

Slater also stole a base and scored for San Francisco, which took the rubber game of the three-game series in a speedy 2 hours, 7 minutes.

Yordan Álvarez homered for Houston, which has lost three of four overall.

The Giants jumped on Framber Valdez for five runs and eight hits in four innings. Valdez (5-4) threw 59 pitches in his shortest outing of the season, finishing with just one strikeout, his fewest in a game since July 26 when he had one against Texas.

San Francisco right-hander Logan Webb (6-5) permitted three runs and seven hits in six innings.

BREWERS 5, BLUE JAYS 4

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Rookie Tobias Myers won back-to-back starts for the first time, allowing one run and three hits over six innings to lead Milwaukee over Toronto for their sixth straight home series win.

Myers (3-2) struck out four and walked one, leaving with a 5-1 lead. The 25-year-old right-hander improved to 3-0 in his last five starts.

Milwaukee stranded the potential tying run at third base in a three-run ninth when pinch-hitter Vladimir Guerrero Jr. flied out to the center-field warning track.

TWINS 17, ROCKIES 9

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Willi Castro and Royce Lewis homered and Carlos Correa had a career-best five hits for Minnesota, who met Colorado starter Austin Gomber with a five-run first inning and finished with a season-high 24 hits in a victory over the Rockies.

Lewis, one of five Twins with three or more hits, went 3 for 5 and scored three times. Carlos Santana started the onslaught with a three-run double in the first and hit an RBI single in a seven-run eighth.

The Twins collected their most hits since setting the single-game club record with 28 on June 13, 2017.

Pablo López (6-6) picked up just his second win in six turns, permitting two runs in five innings—including Ryan McMahon hitting a solo homer for the second game in a row.

PADRES 5, ATHLETICS 4

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Rookie Jackson Merrill's second hom-

er of the game was a walk-off shot off Mason Miller with one out in the ninth and San Diego beat Oakland as Fernando Tatis Jr.'s career-high 17-game hitting streak ended.

Merrill drove the first pitch he saw from Miller (1-1) down the right field line, his fifth and flipped his bat. He was met at home by a wild celebration.

Donovan Solano also hit two home runs, including a tying shot in the eighth. Tatis, who went 0 for 3, was aboard with a walk. Tatis' streak had been the longest active streak in the majors.

A's manager Mark Kotsay was ejected in the top of the ninth by home plate umpire Tom Hanahan. The A's struck out 18 times, including a season-high 12 by Padres starter Michael King.

The A's rallied for three runs in the sixth to take the lead and pushed it to 4-2 in the eighth on Zack Gelof's double to left-center.

The Padres came back to tie it at 4 in the bottom of the eighth on Solano's two-run homer to center off Lucas Erceg.

ORIOLES 4, BRAVES 2

BALTIMORE (AP)—Colton Cowser hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the eighth inning, and the Baltimore won their sixth straight game, beating Atlanta.

Cade Povich pitched six scoreless innings in his second big league outing for Baltimore, but Atlanta tied it when Matt Olson hit a two-run shot off Keegan Akin (2-0) in the eighth. Cowser answered with a drive to right-center off Joe Jiménez (1-2) that cleared the wall despite an impressive leaping effort by center fielder Michael Harris II.

Craig Kimbrel worked a perfect ninth against the franchise he's most associated with, earning his 16th save in 19 chances.

Atlanta has dropped five straight for the first time since 2017—the last year the Braves didn't win the NL East. They entered Wednesday night 10 games behind first-place Philadelphia.

REDS 4, GUARDIANS 2

CINCINNATI (AP)—Jeimer Candelario homered twice and drove in all four runs and Cincinnati rallied to beat Cleveland to split the opening series of the Ohio Cup.

Candelario had a 404-foot solo shot to center in the first inning and hit a three-run homer with one out in the sixth inning that chased Tanner Bibbee (4-2) after the Cleveland right-hander had logged a career-high 11 strikeouts.



San Francisco Giants pitcher Camilo Doval (75) celebrates with left fielder Austin Slater (13) after the Giants defeated the Houston Astros in a baseball game in San Francisco, Wednesday, June 12, 2024.

Nick Lodolo (7-2) had another quality start for the Reds, allowing two Cleveland runs and seven hits with six strikeouts through six innings.

Lodolo got into a jam in the third, but it could have been worst. He hit Josh Naylor to load the bases and walked in a run before getting Andrés Giménez on a groundout.

Lucas Sims and Sam Moll each pitched a scoreless inning, and Alexis Diaz got Cleveland in order in the ninth for his 14th save.

Bibbee gave up four runs and four hits.

METS 10, MARLINS 4

NEW YORK (AP)—Harrison Bader hit an early two-run homer, Starling Marte and Francisco Lindor also went deep, and the New York Mets took advantage of shoddy defense by Miami.

Tyrone Taylor went 4 for 5 for his second career four-hit game and Francisco Alvarez had two RBIs in his second game back from the injured list as the Mets (29-37) won for the seventh time in 11 games following a 4-15 skid.

Marte and Bader both knocked in two runs and scored twice.

Alvarez and J.D. Martinez each delivered an RBI single as New York took a 5-2 lead in a three-run second inning aided by two errors on the infield and a wild pitch from Braxton Garrett (2-2).

NATIONALS 7, TIGERS 5

DETROIT (AP)—CJ Abrams hit a double and a home run and Washington beat Detroit Tigers for their first five-game winning streak in three years.

Jake Irvin (5-5) gave up one run on six hits in six innings.

Washington last won five

straight between June 19-24, 2021. A victory on Thursday would give the team its first six-game winning streak since an eight-game streak from Sept. 23-29, 2019 — the year the Nationals won the World Series.

CUBS 4, RAYS 3

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Cody Bellinger hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning, and the Chicago Cubs held off Tampa Bay Rays.

Cubs closer Héctor Neris allowed José Caballero's solo homer in the ninth before earning his 10th save in 13 chances. The right-hander allowed a single to Ben Rortvedt and walked Taylor Walls with one out before getting a fielder's choice grounder from Yandy Diaz and a flyball from Brandon Lowe.

Seiya Suzuki also went deep for the Cubs, who are 6-13 since May 22.

CARDINALS 4, PIRATES 2

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Nolan Arenado and Iván Herrera each had three hits, Sonny Gray pitched seven strong innings, and St. Louis beat Pittsburgh.

Arenado scored a run and drove one in while Herrera also scored a run. Brendan Donovan added two hits and an RBI.

Gray (8-4) gave up one run and four hits while striking out nine and walking just one. He had lost his previous two starts.

Ryan Helsley gave up a leadoff single in the ninth before finishing up for his major league-leading 22nd save in 23 chances.

RED SOX 8, PHILLIES 6

BOSTON (AP)—Enmanuel Valdez hit a tiebreaking two-run double in Boston's five-run fifth inning, and the Red

Sox beat Philadelphia.

Jarren Duran had three of Boston's 13 hits. David Hamilton had two hits, scored twice and drove in two runs.

The Red Sox, who trailed 4-0 after three innings, had dropped three of four. With the win, they returned to .500 at 34-34.

YANKEES 11, ROYALS 5

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Jose Trevino capped a six-run first inning with a three-run homer, Gleyber Torres added a three-run drive in the seventh and the New York Yankees romped over Kansas City for their third straight win in the four-game series.

Giancarlo Stanton hit a 449-foot, two-run homer into shrubbery next to a waterfall beyond left-center, a night after hitting a 446-foot home run over three fences beyond center field.

The major league-best Yankees (49-21) have won 12 of their last 15 games and have outscored the Royals 25-8 in the series.

MARINERS 2, WHITE SOX 1, 10 INNINGS

SEATTLE (AP)—Mitch Haniger capped a nine-pitch at-bat with an RBI single to score Luke Raley with the winning run and give Seattle a 10-inning win over the Chicago White Sox.

Seattle blew a chance to win the game after Luis Robert Jr.'s pinch-hit solo home run leading off the ninth inning tied the game 1-1. Chicago was unable to score in the 10th and Hangier came through with the sixth walk-off hit of his career.

Haniger fell behind in the count 0-2 against Steven Wilson (1-3) but dumped a soft single into right field. Raley, who provided all of Seattle's

offense through the first nine innings with a solo home run, raced around from second.

ANGELS 8, DIAMONDBACKS 3

PHOENIX (AP)—José Soriano pitched effectively into the ninth inning, Jo Adell hit a three-run homer and the Los Angeles Angels rolled over Arizona.

The Angels bounced back from a 9-4 loss in the series opener by jumping on Arizona starter Slade Cecconi (1-5) early and often.

Zach Neto hit a solo homer in the second inning and Adell launched his three-run shot during Los Angeles' four-run fourth inning. Matt Thaiss added a run-scoring double in the sixth inning that was initially ruled a homer before being overturned upon review.

Neto and Nolan Schanuel each had three of the Angels' 14 hits.

That was more than enough for Soriano (4-5).

The second-year right-hander was helped by four double plays in the first five innings and didn't allow a runner past first base until Christian Walker's leadoff homer in the eighth. Ketel Marte followed with a two-run homer off Matt Moore in the ninth inning.

RANGERS 3, DODGERS 2

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Corey Seager hit a go-ahead, three-run homer off Walker Buehler in his return to Dodger Stadium and Texas defeated the Los Angeles when Andy Pages ran through a stop sign and was thrown out at the plate for the final out.

Seager was back in the lineup as designated hitter against his old team after missing four games with a hamstring issue, including the series opener. The 30-year-old shortstop went 1 for 3 with a strikeout. He was 2016 NL Rookie of the Year and 2020 NL and World Series MVP with the Dodgers, then left as a free agent after the 2021 season.

Shohei Ohtani put the Dodgers ahead in the first with his 17th homer, a 424-foot drive.

Will Smith singled leading off the ninth against 37-year-old Kirby Yates and Pages walked with two outs.

Jason Heyward doubled to center, scoring Smith, but Pages ran through the stop sign of third-base coach Dino Ebel and was tagged out at the plate by Jonah Heim. The catcher took second baseman Marcus Semien's relay throw from center fielder Leody Taveras and tagged the sliding Pages on the left side. A video review upheld the call of plate umpire Marvin Hudson.

'Strong chance of podium finish for beach v-ball'

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The small NMI National Beach Volleyball Team has a strong chance of a podium finish in the 2024 Micronesian Games in Majuro, Marshall Islands.

Despite powerhouse duo Logan Mister and Andrew Johnson not being on the team, coach Tyce Mister said that Aurora Santos, Kathy Winkfield, Dylan Mister, and Jermaine Salas have a lot to bring to the Games.

"Our men's team is young, but they both have some great volleyball experience under their belts. They are both very fast on defense and their positive attitude will also synergize. Our women's team will capitalize on their experience," he said about the 2024 Micronesian Games beach volleyball team.

Winkfield has many years of volleyball experience under her belt and was on the

2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games beach volleyball team. Dylan is the younger brother of NMPMG silver medalist and 2023 Pacific Games bronze medalist Logan.

As for training, both Winkfield and Salas have been practicing on Saipan's beaches with coach Tyce, and assistance from Chris Nelson and Jacoby Winkfield.

Santos, on the other hand, has been training in Colorado near Denver, where there are a variety of beach courts set up, while Dylan has been training in Southern California with his brother national team pool player Logan.

The biggest challenge then, said Tyce, is that they have all been training apart from their partner. "They all are experienced and will have similar styles of play, but the lack of time to gel together on the court will be a challenge," he said. However, he also said, "They



LEIGH GASES
The CNMI National Beach Volleyball Team for the 2024 Micronesian Games, from left, Jermaine Salas, coach Tyce Mister, and Kathy Winkfield. Not present is Aurora Santos and Dylan Mister.

will adapt quickly."

As to how the team was selected, Tyce said that they had open tryouts for the team. With Logan and Johnson unable to attend the Games, Tyce said it opened up a great opportunity to bring in some up-and-coming beach volleyball athletes. Meanwhile, there was a shortage of women who tried out for the team, and those who were selected were unable to attend.

However, Tyce said they knew Santos, who was born and raised in the NMI, had been training and playing

a lot of beach volleyball. "She had returned to Saipan a few times in recent years, consistently demonstrating a high caliber of play. We reached out to her, and the timing was perfect as she was going to be in Hawaii until just before the Games," said Tyce.

While Tyce is the coach for the team, he is not going to the Games, so Winkfield will get the title of athlete-coach in Majuro.

Beach volleyball competitions are slated for Saturday, June 15, until Tuesday, June 18.

Asahi retains top spot in heading into playoffs

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

No. 1 seed Asahi retained their top spot heading into the playoffs with a win over second seed Hagu La'mun, 21-16, in the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association

master's division last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

It was a home run derby of sorts for Asahi as the league just came off one the week before, and Asahi's thirst for home runs were still unquenched.

After Hagu La'mun broke the ice with a three-run first

inning from a two-run jack from Glenn Camacho and a solo shot by Jerome Delos Santos, Asahi had their fill in the third inning. Hagu La'mun couldn't hit what Asahi pitcher Dom Hideo offered in the second while Asahi scored two off Andon Jones and Hector Efraim for a 2-3 game.

Then, Asahi's breakout inning came in the third and fourth when they pummeled Hagu La'mun's pitcher John Acosta.

Paython Rdiall hit a two-run homer, followed by another two-run shot by Jones to tie the game up, 7-7. Asahi then broke the tie quickly in the next inning with a two-run blast by Marino Hiroichi, while three more runs scored for a 12-7 game.

Hagu La'mun's bats fell silent in the fourth, but picked up again in the fifth with a four-run inning to chip away at Asahi's lead, 11-14. Rdiall then hit a solo homer in the sixth to put them up, 15-11.

It was still a close game after a quiet seventh for Asahi when Hagu La'mun rallied

and tied the game up, 15-15, to force extra innings. In the end, Rdiall hit three round-trippers, while Jones hit two homers, and Hideo, Germance, and Hiroichi hit one each.

But Asahi proved why they're the top team in the league as they scored six runs in the eighth while Hagu La'mun scored just one more for a 21-16 final.

In other results, Tokahao blasted Man Amigos, 15-5; Peliliu slipped past the Redmen, 14-13; Saipal forfeited against Tutturamz; Sufa blanked Wazzup, 9-0.

In the standings behind Asahi is Hagu La'mun with a 13-5 record; next is Man Amigos tied with Sufa with a 12 win and six loss record; Tokahao is at 10-8; Peliliu is at an even 9-9; Wazzup are at 8-10; Tutturamz are 5-13; Redmen is at 4-14; and Saipal is down in the dumps with just one win and 17 losses.

The playoffs is set to start this Sunday, June 23, with the continuation on June 30. The best-of-3 championship game is also set for that day.

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Jaden Andrew, and Lucio Eugenio—were part too of the first NMI delegation as well as their coach, John Davis. Joseph Pangelinan will join the team later this evening after leaving Saipan Thursday morning, while Leowell Cristobal is also scheduled to arrive in Majuro from Japan this Friday evening. The weightlifting competition will be held on June 17 and 18 at the International Convention Center.

Team Marianas' weightlifting, tennis, and beach volleyball teams will be joined in the opening ceremony by the NMI National Women's Softball Team, which left Saipan for the Micro Games Thursday morning. The NMI National Swimming Team also left Saipan Thursday morning, but will not be able to participate in the opening ceremony in Majuro, as the swim competition will take place in Kwajalein from June 17 to 21.

"Our athletes are settling in and are looking forward to the opening ceremony. This weekend, we are excited to welcome the teams from other sports (athletics and basketball) and by early next week, we will have the complete NMI delegation. Our athletes and officials are deeply grateful for the opportunity to represent the NMI in the Micronesian Games and thank all the organizations and individuals that have supported our Team Marianas," Hofschneider said.

Team Marianas is supported by the following sponsors, Joeten Daidai Foundation, Mariana Express Lines Pte. Ltd, Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, Skechers, Triple J Enterprise, E-Land Group, D&Q, TakeCare Insurance, IT&E, Bank of Guam, Black Construction Corporation, Dial-Rent-To-Own, RNV Constructions, GPPC/Apex Builders, Matson, Chinese Association of Saipan, Y.K. Corporation, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort,

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TEAM MARIANAS SCHEDULE										
SPORT	SAT 6/15	SUN 6/16	MON 6/17	TUE 6/18	WED 6/19	THU 6/20	FRID 6/21	SAT 6/22	SUN 6/23	MON 6/24
ATHLETICS										
BASKETBALL SVS										
BEACH VOLLEYBALL										
TENNIS										
SOFTBALL										
SWIMMING/OPEN WATER										
WEIGHTLIFTING										
WRESTLING										

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up to the Micro Games, Kimura said they've been preparing more than 100% for the competition in the Marshalls.

"After Isaiah's Junior Olympic stint, we started focus on Micronesian Game. That's all we focus on. Swimmers created their workouts by themselves. Our slogan for Micro game is 'Get stronger by ourselves!' because we must go

forward to the next stage. So, this past six weeks, I didn't coach my swimmers any more. They've thought everything by themselves, planned practice schedule, and created workouts."

He feels confident that all nine swimmers can bring home a medal each back home to the CNMI.

"It doesn't matter what color of medal. Standing on the podium is the most important. My mindset is 'conquer all

gold medals.' This is the ultimate goal that no national swim team has achieved yet in the Micro Games. But we have very high possibility for it this time. However, this is difficult. This goal can only be achieved by working together," said Kimura.

National coach Richard Sikkel, meanwhile, expects Miller, Raho, and Tenorio to all make the finals of their respective events in the 2024 Micronesian Games and "possibly eke out

medals here and there."

"Nagi is swimming the breaststroke events. Michael and Piper have been focusing in their training on the longer distance free events like the 800m and 1,500m. Piper will also do backstroke as this is her strong stroke. Training has been good. These three had the opportunity to swim in Australia and experience competition conditions not too long ago so there are well prepped to swim their fastest times," he said.

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the first time today.

As for their team's pool, Camacho said that Palau pulled out their team so they expect changes in their pool play. Basketball competitions are slated for Monday, June 17 until Sunday, June 23.

The team's 11-woman roster with Fatialofa, Alegre, and Fernandez, are Sylvina Simram, Yasmeen Younis, Kaia Travilla, Michelle Kautz, Lia Rangamar, Destiny Pangelinan, Lalaine Pagarao, and Cassandra Camacho.

The selection process for the team, according to coach Camacho, was based on an assessment matrix and several tools that were used to evaluate each player's athleticism, positional skillset, attitude,

and coachability. She said, "The players were graded on a scale of 1-10 and a cut was made with 10 players originally on the roster. Factors, such as off-island recruitment, played a factor on available spots as well."

The coaching staff with Camacho includes her mentor Elias Rangamar, who is also the NMI National Athletics coach.

She said Rangamar "has been instrumental in the development of Women's Basketball here in the CNMI. He is very supportive in my role as a head coach and passionate in developing our women's program. If we are talking about bringing home medals, the CNMI Women's Basketball, Coach Eli and I, so far are four of five. I think our chances are pretty good."



**Tatum, Brown help
Celtics hold off
huge Dallas rally
for 3-0 lead.**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Team Marianas athletes, officials arrive in Marshalls

Team Marianas wrestling, tennis, and beach volleyball teams are now in the Marshall Islands for the 2024 Micronesian Games that will kick off this Saturday with the opening ceremony at the Majuro Track & Field stadium.

Team Marianas chef de mission Valerie Hofschneider said the first batch of NMI delegates to the Micro Games arrived late Wednesday night and proceeded to the Athletes Villages to settle in. Yesterday, tennis coach Jeff Race and team manager John Bradley had a site visit at the NCD and USP tennis courts, while they were joined by netters Hannah Chae, Hoo Wang, Irin Chung, Colin Ramsey, and Si Woo Lee in the afternoon for some practice sessions. NMI tennis players will have a lot of time to practice, as their competitions will not start until June 20. Robbie Schorr and Isabel Heras complete the tennis

team and will reunite with the group on June 17.

Beach volleyball's Kathy Winkfield and Jermaine Salas also had their first day on the sand court yesterday and had a scrimmage with Palau players. The other members of the squad—Dylan Mister and Aurora Santos—arrived Thursday late morning via Hawaii. The NMI beach volleyball players will be the first athletes to see action for the islands, as their games will start this Saturday and run until June 18.

Five weightlifters—NMI flag bearer Antonette Labausa, Riella Ichiuo, Kaya Rasa, and two others—will compete in the weightlifting events. **See TEAM on Page 31**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Top, NMI swimmers train at the St. John's Academy pool in Guam yesterday afternoon before leaving for the Marshall Islands Friday morning. Bottom, NMI players hold practice sessions in one of the two tennis facilities in Majuro in preparation for the 2024 Micronesian Games.

NMI swimmers eye rich medal haul

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

The CNMI National Swimming Team to the 2024 Micronesian Games in Majuro, Marshall Islands will be the best of the best the Northern Marianas can offer when it comes to aquatics excellence.

The swimming competition, which includes both pool and open water, will be held from June 17 to 21

at the Kwajalein Pool in Kwajalein.

Making up the team are Isaiah Aleksenko, Kean Pajarillaga, Kouki Watanabe, Justin Ma, Richard Zhao, Michael Miller, Shoko Litulumar, Maria Bataliones, Sari Barman, Maria Guerrero, Piper Raho, and Nagi Tenorio.

National coach Hiroyuki Kimura said he expects Aleksenko, Pajarillaga, and Bataliones to sweep the

gold medals in the events they're competing in, while Watanabe and Litulumar are primed to take the top spot in their backstroke and breaststroke events, respectively. Same for Guerrero in the 200m butterfly.

For Ma and Zhao, Kimura expects either a silver or bronze for both of them, while Barman can salvage a medal in the 50m butterfly.

As for the training leading **See NMI on Page 31**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Front row, from left, CNMI National Swimming Team members Frances Raho, Nagi Tenorio, Maria Bataliones, Shoko Litulumar, Maria Guerrero, and Sari Barman. Middle row, from left, Kean Pajarillaga, Isaiah Aleksenko, Michael Miller, Richard Zhao, Justin Ma, and Kouki Watanabe. Top row, from left, team manager Yuko Kimura, coach Hiro Kimura, coach David Roberto Jr., Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation vice president John Hirsh, and coach Richard Sikkell.

'Top 3 is the goal for NMI women's basketball'



NMIBF

The CNMI National Women's Basketball Team for the 2024 Micronesian Games, from left back row, coach Connie Camacho, Sylvina Simram, Michelle Kautz, Azriel Fatialofa, Alliyah Fernandez, and Madeleine Alegre. Front row, from left, Kaia Travilla, Destiny Pangelinan, Yasmeen Younis, Lalaine Pagarao, Lia Rangamar, and Cassandra Camacho.

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI National Women's Basketball Team is out for redemption in the 2024 Micronesian Games in Majuro, Marshall Islands.

Since 1998, the women's national team has medaled in the Micronesian Games with the exception of the 2018 Games.

After that fall in the 2018

Games in Yap, head coach Connie Camacho said she expects the team to "be competitive and to redeem ourselves by placing NMI Women's Basketball as one of the top three teams in Micronesia."

She said that the biggest challenge for their podium run will be the back-to-back games and the young players ability to learn quickly and adapt under pressure.

Their strengths, Cama-

cho said, is their height with centers Azriel Fatialofa and Madeleine Alegre, and "the experience that we bring with players that have played in the past Micronesian Games."

The final touches of training before competition were polishing up their offense and defense, as well as adjusting and learning how to play with fly-in Alliyah Fernandez, who will practice with the team for

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